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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Situation in Territories, Aid

LD0410215793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Following his meeting with [Algerian] Head of State Ali Kafi, Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] went as Algeria's guest to Djenane el-Mithak, where he held a news conference. The brother president replied to questions put to him by Algerian and foreign journalists accredited in Algiers. Most of their questions focused on the expectations following the signing of the agreement between the PLO and Israel. The following is a recording of the news conference.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] Welcome. I am happy about our meeting, a meeting with this friendly and fraternal gathering of newsmen in the land of heroism, in the land of Algeria, the land of one-and-a-half-million martyrs. [passage omitted]

There is no adequate information about the details of the agreement. We went to Madrid—and it is well-known that Palestinians had a special status in Madrid that differed from that of other Arabs. We went to Madrid under a Jordanian-Palestinian umbrella to establish a self-rule interim government for five years inside the occupied territories. At the end of the five-year period, we would start to seek the final solution.

In the agreement that was concluded, we managed to merge part of the final solution into the beginning of the interim solution. The final solution means total withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and establishing a full national authority in Gaza and Jericho. On the remaining territories, interim Palestinian self-rule government would be established. Why? Because on the rest of the land, a redeployment—in English—of Israeli troops will take place: that is, they will withdraw from towns, villages, and populated areas, while in Gaza and Jericho the Palestinian flag will be hoisted for the first time over the first liberated Palestinian land.

Not only that, there will be issues to be dealt with in the interim phase and others to be dealt with in the beginning of the sixth year. For instance, Jerusalem will be included in the interim period, meaning that our people in Jerusalem will participate in the elections that will be held in nine months' time. Also, our Arab Palestinian institutes will remain under our authority, as well as the Islamic and the Christian holy sites, which will also be for all the Palestinian masses.

As for the final status of Arab Jerusalem, holy Jerusalem, or sacred Jerusalem, it will be decided at the beginning of the third year.

Regarding the refugees, which was your question. The refugees are of two kinds: those who fled in 1967, who are called the displaced refugees, displaced refugees [preceding two words spoken in English]. A committee was established.... [pauses] Where were they displaced from? They were taken to Egypt and Jordan in 1967, if you remember. An Egyptian, Jordanian, Palestinian, Israeli committee was set up to make arrangements for their immediate repatriation in the transitional phase. The early [1948] refugees...[pauses] there are about 900,000 of the early refugees. The question of the original refugees, I am one of them, will be discussed with the issue of Jerusalem in the third year, along with the issue of Israeli settlements and the final borders.

However, as I told you, there will be a Palestinian flag hoisted over the first liberated Palestinian Arab territory. This means we were able to impose a final solution on a part of our territory and instead of delaying a decision on all our territories until the end of the transitional phase.

The other point: Yes, the Sanaa meeting is set for 25 October. This is due to the efforts of my brother President Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

As for the other issue: Yes, the agreement was made in prison, among our prisoners—Fatah and Hamas prisoners. When we were informed of it and it was announced from prison, we blessed it. We blessed it, and they blessed it too. This left a good effect on the whole of the Palestinian public.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, [words indistinct] These days the Gaza Strip is witnessing a grave escalation: the combing campaign by the members of the Israeli [word indistinct] against Palestinian citizens.

['Arafat] Yes, we considered that a violation of the agreement. Yesterday we issued a clear statement concerning this, and it was distributed and published in the press. The Israelis have asked for meetings—a meeting with us—in order to try to rectify the situation.

The situation is not only in Gaza. Similar things happened in the West Bank, in Jenin against hunted Fatah members, and in Gaza against hunted Fatah members and hunted Hamas members.

We do not accept the Israeli explanation that they are hunting only Hamas members. No. I am responsible for the entire Palestinian people. When I signed the agreement, along with my brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], we signed it on behalf of all the Palestinian people. Therefore this was a violation of the agreement. We do not accept the Israeli justification as given.

[Unidentified correspondent in French, followed by Arabic translation] You do not accept the Israeli argument that has been put to you?

['Arafat] This is a violation of the agreement. We have informed the two sponsors of the conference of that. We informed the EEC of that. We informed the UN Security Council of that.

[Unidentified correspondent] For the second question: What stage has the preparatory committee for entering Jericho reached? When exactly will you enter the Gaza Strip and Jericho?

['Arafat] On 14 October the joint committee will commence its work of drawing up the preparations of the details in order to transfer the agreement on Gaza and Jericho from paper to reality.

The hand over and withdrawals are supposed to commence on 14 December. This hand over and withdrawal could take one month, two months, or three months, according to what will be agreed.

I hope to be on our Palestinian soil, in Gaza or Jericho, by next January.

[Unidentified correspondent] A conference was held in Washington last week to give financial assistance to the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho. Where does the issue stand?

['Arafat] As a matter of fact, the issue has reached $2.2 billion for five years, or $440 million a year. That is a small amount that does not even cover part of the requirements we have to meet. All our infrastructure has been totally destroyed. We thank the countries that made donations, and we thank President Clinton for his initiative. However, the amount donated so far can only cover a small part of the requirements. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct] You sent Mr. Rabin a message on the latest campaign in the occupied territories. [passage indistinct]

['Arafat] [Words indistinct] to the violation that took place.

[Unidentified correspondent] In the same context, the Israelis expect the help of the PLO following the agreement to [word indistinct] collectively, what they call the opponents [word indistinct]. What does the PLO suggest....

['Arafat interrupting] Did I ask him to (?win over) the opposition that did not approve the agreement? If he respects his opposition, I too respect mine. He has to respect the Palestinian opposition as he respects the Israeli opposition. Does he liquidate the Israeli opposition?

We hope that the (?dozen) organizations that are present in Syria will unite. We hope that they will all unite. What is important their weight and how many people they represent. Despite this, whether they represent many or a few, we respect them on the basis of democracy—the (?dozen) and not the 10 organizations. As Voltaire said: I may have a different opinion than you, but I am ready to fight for the sake of the freedom of your opinion.

[Unidentified correspondent] With regard to the criteria of power in the Arab arena and, in particular, some Arab states that did not approve of the agreement....

['Arafat] Who has not approved of the agreement?

[Correspondent] There are some [words indistinct]. Syria has not approved.

['Arafat] Syria has not announced that it does not approve, it has not announced officially that it does not approve. This is its stand through its foreign minister at the Arab League. It is true that it adopts opposition but it has not opposed [the agreement] officially. Fatah, other organizations existing within the PLO, and I implement the resolutions of the national councils. This was part of our political program in 1988 when we said: two states on the Palestinian land, the two-state solution. And 84 percent of our Palestinian National Council [PNC] approved the resolution.

I went to convey this political program, in which we declared the State of Palestine on this basis here in Algiers, to say these words at the UN General Assembly, which moved from New York to Geneva, on behalf of the PNC. We adopt resolutions which are approved by the Palestinian people. Fatah and the PLO implement the resolutions of the Palestinian people and not those that come from outside the Palestinian people.

[Passage indistinct]

['Arafat] We are not voices or trumpets for any Arab or foreign force. We have fought for our independent Palestinian national option. We follow the pulse of the masses and what these masses want. Any movement that deviates from the pulse of its masses can never survive. Fatah continues to represent a main movement, or the main movement, of the Palestinian people. [passage indistinct] The PLO survives because it represents the Palestinian national identity.

[Unidentified correspondent] There is talk about positive points in this agreement. What do you think of that? Second question: It is said that the Gaza-Jericho plan took place under international conditions that were not favorable for the Palestinian cause and the Arab world in general. What do you say about that? Then a personal question to Abu-'Ammar: What was your feeling when you shook hands with Rabin?

['Arafat] First of all, the marvelous thing about this agreement is that we were able to obtain it in spite of the difficult international conditions, particularly the divided Arab situation after the Gulf war. In spite of that, we were able to obtain this agreement. When we went to Madrid, didn't we go to reach an agreement? Why did we go, then? For a picnic? [preceding word in English] [applause] [passage indistinct]

We did not go to Madrid for a picnic. Two years ago we went to Madrid. We came here and adopted the decision in Algeria to go to Madrid, not for a picnic but to reach an agreement. Everybody agreed to go to Madrid. We achieved this agreement, which I consider the best possible under the objective circumstances. If anyone can get more than we go, let him show me.

We simply carry out the instructions of our Palestine National Council and those of our Palestinian people. Did you think I went to Washington for a picnic? I went to make peace with my enemies, not with ghosts. Salah-al-Din shook hands with Richard the Lionhearted at the Ramlah peace treaty. Isn't that true? I am not representing

my sentiments and feelings. I am representing the Palestinian people, and the sentiments and feelings of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Comments on Status of Jerusalem

LD0410222393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 oct 93

["Exclusive" interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat after his news conference to local and foreign correspondnets at Djenane el-Mithak by correspondent Abdelkader Daamich on 4 October—recorded]

[Text] [Daamich] Your Excellency, it has been said that you are always flying. It seems, however, that you land quite often in Algeria. What is the reason for that?

['Arafat] May I ask you whether you are aware that my passport was issued at Villa Jolie? I think it bears the number 141. That means that I was the 141st person to be issued an Algerian passport. I picked it up myself from Villa Jolie.

[Daamich] As far as the independent Palestinian state is concerned, is it possible to tell us about its geographic boundaries after the transitional period? There have been some talks about the agreement....

['Arafat, interrupting] In accordance with Resolution 242...[pauses] we said in Algiers in 1988 that there should be two states after our acceptance of Resolution 242. Hence, in accordance with Resolution 242, we are going to set up our independent Palestinian state.

[Daamich] As far as economic issues are concerned, can we anticipate a Palestinian economic policy?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly the most important thing for us is how to set up an independent Palestinian economy, given the fact that our economic infrastructure has been destroyed by the occupation. We are going to start from scratch. We have to build systems of transportation, telephone, communications, sewers, health, education, municipalities, and social affairs. We do not have a harbor, and we would like to build one. We do not have an airport, and we would like to build one. We are going to start from nothing, a fact that makes it harder still. Nevertheless, I am confident in our people's ability and in the help of our brothers and friends. Anywhy, when one regains one's homeland, one he should not view it in terms of poverty and wealth. A homeland is a homeland, regardless of whether it is a poor or rich one.

The most important thing is, however, the fact that for the first time in the modern era, a Palestinian flag will be hoisted on a free Palestinian land as a first step toward the establishment of our independent Palestinian state, whose capital will be holy Jerusalem. And that is why when Rabin said that he was drawing a red line over Jerusalem, my reply to him was: I could draw four red lines over Jerusalem. If he could draw one red line over Jerusalem, I could draw four: a Palestinian red line, an Arab red line, an Islamic red line, and a Christian red line. Holy Jerusalem and Arab Jerusalem will be the capital of independent Palestine sooner or later. God willing, one day both of us, you and myself, will pray there. I hope to be able to invite you to visit me in Jerusalem very soon, God willing.

[Daamich] Your Excellency, are you going to the occupied territories at the beginning of the coming year?

['Arafat] God willing. Would you like to come with me or not? You have an invitation as of now, an invitation to Gaza now, and God willing, another one to Jerusalem later.

[Daamich] Thank you very much, Your Excellency. But, let us assume that we want to travel from Jericho to Gaza or from Gaza to Jericho....

['Arafat, interrupting] There is a corridor. There is something in the agreement that is called, in English, safe passage—similar to the corridor that used to exist in Berlin, from West Germany to Berlin. Wasn't there a corridor? There would also be a corridor between Jericho and Gaza, and together we shall be in Jerusalem, God willing.

[Daamich] Thank you, Mr. President.

PLO Approves Structures To Take Over Authority

NC0410213093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC] Muhammad Subayh has stated that the Palestinian leadership has approved the structures that will handle the transfer of authority in Gaza and Jericho. The structures were devised by a mini-committee the leadership had earlier formed to follow up on negotiations in the next stage.

In a statement today, Subayh said the structures include the leading structure that will take over authority under the chairmanship of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. This structure includes members from the PLO Executive Committee and key figures from within the occupied territories.

The structures also include the committees that will take part in negotiations with Israel to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Several Factions Expected To Attend Sanaa Forum

PM0410112493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Trend Toward Including All Factions Without Exception in Sanaa Meeting"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Extensive contacts are continuing between a number of Palestinian leaders opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement with a view to expanding the Palestinian meeting scheduled to be held in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, on 25 October. Hamas called for the meeting to be held on condition that Yasir 'Arafat and Mahmud 'Abbas do not participate in it. It will be held under the slogan of working to topple the agreement signed by some PLO leaders with the Zionist enemy.

According to leading opposition figures, the meeting—which was expected to be attended by the oppositionists of Fatah, Hamas, the Popular Front [for the Liberation of

Palestine], and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]—is now seriously expected to be joined by some leaders of other Palestinian opposition factions that until recently have not participated in such meetings, because Fatah used to object to the PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command], led by Ahmad Jibril; Fatah-the Uprising, led by Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]; and Fatah-Revolutionary Council, led by Sabri al-Banna [Abu-Nidal].

However, information available to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT confirms that there is a serious trend which has begun to crystallize recently in the Palestinian opposition to the effect that these factions should be invited to the Sanaa meeting in order to work to unite Palestinian ranks on the basis of common denominators in opposition to the agreement, and in order to unite Palestinian ranks in an effective and influential manner to topple the agreement.

A Palestinian leader opposed to the agreement said that "the time has come for us to abandon the chronic objections to the participation of Fatah-the Uprising, the Revolutionary Council, or Ahmad Jibril in Palestinian meetings. If some of us can extend their hands to shake hands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, it is more proper for us to remove the artificial barriers among us."

PFLP Central Committee Calls for Resisting Accord

JN0310080593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Damascus—The Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has called for confronting, resisting, and working to topple the Gaza-Jericho agreement by all available means. In a statement yesterday, the Central Committee also called for defending the Palestinian people's national identity and unity. It urged adherence to the national program to achieve the Palestinian people's objectives, represented by repatriation, self-determination, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and safeguarding the PLO and its national charter and program.

The statement says that the danger of the agreement lies in the fact that it abandons the PLO national and liberation program and discards the rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The danger of the agreement, the statement continues, is that it also halts and liquidates the intifadah, dismembers the Palestinian territory and people, retains the settlements, divides the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 into separate units, scraps the right to repatriation, and opens the gate to the settlement of Palestinian refugees in the diaspora, compensation, and displacement. The agreement is also dangerous because it recognizes Israel and legitimizes the overall practices of the Zionist movement since its establishment, the statement notes.

The statement says that the agreement has dealt a direct blow to the unity of the international legitimacy resolutions, which were a weapon in the hands of the Palestinian people to regain their rights. It adds that the agreement is an attempt to strike at the pan-Arab dimension of the Palestine question and to completely isolate it from Arab national struggle.

PFLP-GC Claims Responsibility for Galilee Fires

JN0410202093 [Clandestine] Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Statement by a "military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command"; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The group of heroic martyr Khalid Akar, which is affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], last night caused a large number of huge fires in Upper Galilee, the Galilee Panhandle, and Safad.

The enemy mobilized its troops and settlers to extinguish the fires. The heroes of the operation managed to return safely to their base.

We pledge to our Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic masses to continue with armed struggle until the liberation of Palestine, all Palestine.

Moreover, we would like to affirm that the vanguards of our mujahid masses will confront the treasonous 'Arafat-Rabin accord, using all means to thwart it.

We, within the PFLP-GC, pay homage to the blood of the heroic martyr, who sacrificed his life in an attack on an enemy bus in the Ramallah area today, 4 October, wounding 24 settlers. We vow to our people, our Arab and Islamic nation, and the martyrs' blood that the armed popular struggle of our people will continue until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Al-'Asifah 'Secret Command' Vows 'Armed Revolution'

JN0510081893 [Clandestine] Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Our heroic correspondents in the steadfast West Bank and Gaza Strip have provided us with a military communique issued by the Secret Command of the al-'Asifah Forces in Gaza. The communique says: The renegade treasonous clique of 'Arafat has gone too far in its defeated course of relinquishment for far too long.

Based on our gut feeling and practical awareness of what 'Arafat and his aides were planning to do, we sounded the alarm to caution those who were oblivious to what was going on and deceived by the actions of this heretic, hoping matters could be set right at an early stage to prevent disgrace and close the road before the traitors and those who conduct business at the expense of the cause.

With all regret and sorrow, however, 'Arafat, the traitor of our nation, has divided every group of the revolution that

opposed his views and pensioned off all those who demonstrated loyalty to the revolution and its principles. [passage omitted]

While declaring our full rejection of what 'Arafat and his aides did, we in the al-'Asifah Forces-Gaza Strip Branch declare that we will henceforth not abide by any order or directive from the heretic 'Arafatist clique. [passage omitted]

We declare the following to the people and for history:

1. The Secret Command of the al-'Asifah Forces in Gaza is making preparations to launch a stormy armed revolution.

2. We bless and express absolute support for any armed action carried out by the Fatah Hawks and we tell them: More strikes at Zionist targets.

3. We press the hands that hold the trigger in the giant al-Qassam Battalions, the Palestine Eagles that fly over our blessed land, and the struggling Battalions of the Sword of Islam. We tell all those heroes: March ahead, our brothers and comrades, with God's blessing. We will soon march along with you.

4. We call on all the free men of the revolution and liberation to follow the example of the honorable voices that were raised in the face of the tyrant of the revolution.

5. We caution the masses of our people not to be carried away by defeatist, ruinous calls that seek to strike at the unity of the people. Let the slogan of this stage be: National unity and a unified rank behind the National Charter, which is threatened by annulment.

6. We call on all nationalist and religious factions not to be carried away by the hooting of the owl of the domineering authority and its group of advisers. Let us possess our independent decisionmaking and deny a chance to all those lying in wait for this people. [passage omitted]

Algeria

'Arafat, al-Husayni Arrive 4 Oct for Talks

LD0410120993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived on a visit to Algeria this morning. Mr. 'Arafat was accompanied by Faysal al-Husayni, coordinator of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks on the Middle East. They were met by Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and prime minister.

The Palestinian president is expected to hold a news conference after his audience later today with Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi.

'Arafat Praises Support

LD0410180193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Palestinian head of the state and PLO's Executive Committee chairman, was received by Ali Kafi, chairman of Algeria's Higher State Council, this morning at the presidential palace.

On leaving the palace, brother leader Abu-'Ammar made the following statement:

With satisfaction and amicable brotherly sentiments, this meeting had the promise of every assistance from our brothers here, Algeria's president and leadership. We particularly listened to positive advice offered during this stage in desting after the signing of the agreement and during which the Palestinian flag will be hoisted over the first liberated Palestinian territory.

In reply to a question on how he assessed the situation in the occupied territories, the brother leader replied: There is no doubt there is an overwhelming Palestinian joy in the occupied territories. Undoubtedly, this agreement is regarded as an initial step of great importance toward establishing a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

Ali Kafi Receives Tunisian Defense Minister

LD0410194993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi this morning received at the presidency, Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, Tunisian defense minister and special envoy of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The meeting was attended by National Defense Minister Lamine Zeroual, and Tunisia's ambassador to Algiers.

Following the meeting, the Tunisian envoy announced that he had handed a written message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to Ali Kafi on bilateral cooperation between Algeria and Tunisia.

The Tunisian defense minister described bilateral relations as excellent and said that they could be moved forward to boost cooperation between the two countries. He said that the visit came within the framework of increasing talks and exchanging facts and views concerning the Arab scene in general, and our region in particular, in order to support the construction of the Arab Maghreb.

'Political Stagnation' Among Parties Perceived

LD0310161893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Numerous pointers characterize the political life here prior to the date set for the national conference which is expected to define future relations between political and social partners, after the expiration of the period of time specified by the Higher State Council [HSC] for the commencement of the transitional phase.

Among the pointers, despite a unanimity among political parties on the denunciation of the current phase, is the slow or tacit commitment by all the parties, particularly those well known for their repeated action in the arena, regarding contribution towards finding a way out of the multifaceted crisis in Algeria. Also among the pointers is the lack of clarity in stances and the lingering of most parties in stating their opinion on the national consensus document.

The political stagnation has from time to time included proposals by some parties as alternatives for getting out of the crisis. However, these have not in themselves constituted a strong impetus for dialogue, according to observers. This is the dialogue which was initiated by the HSC in two phases with all the mass movements in the country. The aim behind the dialogue was to achieve political openness, as stressed by Redha Malek, member of the higher state council and head of government, who has stated that he was making endeavors towards that [achieving political openness] in coordination with the HSC.

Egypt

Mubarak Wins Third Term With 95 Percent Vote

NC0510105393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has announced that 94.91 percent of the voters who participated in yesterday's referendum have said yes to a third term for President Mubarak.

Referendum Preparations Reported

NC0410075193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Some 18.8 million people are going to the polls this morning to vote on the reelection of President Husni Mubarak for a third term. Throughout the country, 288 general polling stations and 26,000 secondary stations will open to receive voters at 0800 today. The Interior Ministry has completed all arrangements for the referendum, including the preparation of ballot boxes and curtains and the posting of name lists at all polling stations. The voting will continue until 1700 today.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi this morning will inspect a number of polling stations in the Governorates of Cairo and al-Jizah to watch security and make sure that the voting is taking place smoothly. The minister instructed security directors in the governorates to take the necessary security measures to protect the polling stations from the outside only and not to intervene in the voting. He instructed them to secure the voting process and give citizens the chance to cast their votes easily.

Mubarak Rules Out U.S. Aid Cutoff Before 1996

NC0210105793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has said that the prime minister who will be chosen after the referendum and the resignation of the ministers will be responsible for selecting new ministers, whether they are serving in the current government or not. In a statement to AKHBAR AL-YAWM Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah, Mubarak denied that the president chooses ministers for the so-called sovereignty portfolios like defense, foreign affairs, and information.

On hints by some American newspapers that the U.S. Administration should cut off economic assistance to Egypt, the president said: I believe it is very difficult for the United States to stop this assistance before 1996 because it knows that we are currently going through a state of transformation from one economic program to a completely different one and that it will take about three years. He said he does not believe that the current U.S. Administration, with which we have close and firm ties, will take these hints in the press seriously.

Mubarak Chairs Meeting of Armed Forces Higher Council

NC0510101593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today chaired the meeting of the Higher Council of the Egyptian Armed Forces at the Defense Ministry.

The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi; Lt. Gen. Salah Halabi, the Armed Forces chief of staff; and members of the Higher Council.

Defense Minister, Air Defense Commander Promoted

NC0410212793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak issued two presidential decrees today promoting Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi to the rank of field marshal and Air Defense Commander Staff Major General Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman Sulayman Abu-Talib to the rank of lieutenant general.

On the occasion marking the 20th anniversary of the glorious October war, the president issued a presidential decree granting General Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, air force commander during the October 1973 war, the honorary rank of field marshal.

Al-Baz on Lockerbie, Arab-Israeli Peace Talks

NC0410161993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has affirmed that the absence of any escalation so far in the Libyan crisis with the West inspires hope and keeps the crisis within the limits that allow for containment and a settlement.

In a statement on recent developments in the crisis today, Dr. al-Baz remarked that the ultimate goal is to find a formula to settle the crisis within the limits defined by the UN Security Council and in a way that is acceptable to all parties concerned. He stressed that this formula should not affect Libyan sovereignty or the dignity of the Libyan people and should fulfill the demands of the Western states.

He stressed that the two Libyan suspects should have a fair trial and receive certain guarantees that the trial will be free from the influence of sentimental and political manipulation.

In his statement, Dr. al-Baz affirmed that Egypt is interested in safeguarding stability in fraternal Libya and in adopting one standard rather than double standards in handling international relations.

Al-Baz added that the Middle East problem has made giant strides. He hoped that these strides would be followed by further steps in implementing what has been agreed or in signing complementary or executive agreements between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Dr. al-Baz stressed the need to reach an agreement on the Syrian-Israeli track in the next stage, because "the matter is very sensitive, vital, and important." He remarked that this track can give a strong impetus to peace efforts and open the door for a settlement on other tracks.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that Egypt has been seeking a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem since 1979, when it signed the peace accords with Israel. He affirmed that Egypt has not sought a settlement involving some specific fronts more than others.

If the Syrian-Israeli track fails to make progress, it will be a setback, he said, adding that it is not right to say that an agreement on that track is implausible.

He added that there is a strong possibility of reaching an agreement on that track. He remarked, however, that this needs efforts over several months.

Dr. al-Baz continued: I believe it is possible to overcome the obstacles within the next months. He said he hoped the Syrian-Israeli track would see a detente by spring.

Dr. al-Baz affirmed that Egypt plays a central and active role in pushing the peace march forward. What interests Egypt is seeing detente along the Syrian-Israeli track, as this is very important, because Egypt and Syria are linked by distinctive ties, and because Syria occupies a strategic location, he said.

Dr. al-Baz revealed that President Husni Mubarak will visit Washington early in the fall. He added that the exact date has not been determined as yet.

Interior Minister Denies Human Rights Violations

NC0410212593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has strongly denied reports about human rights violations in Egypt.

In statements today, the interior minister denounced reports that human rights are being violated in Egypt and that people are being tortured. He described such reports as "mere purposeful rumors that seek to distort Egypt's image."

Al-Alfi affirmed that the security agencies will continue their efforts to strike at terrorist elements within the framework of the law and legitimacy. He added that the security men are facing terrorist elements with all their strength, particularly after the police lost a number of martyrs in this confrontation. He pointed out that in their confrontation with the terrorists, who resort to violence and use weapons and explosives, the men of the police are legally acting in self-defense.

Interior Ministry: 48 'Terrorists' Arrested

NC0110211893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—An interior ministry source has stated that the security forces arrested 30 terrorists during a sweep in al-Badari area in the Asyut Governorate yesterday. The source said those arrested include fugitive terrorist Mahmud Mahmud Hammad who is wanted in several cases, including cases 1308/92 and 1324/92 and fugitive terrorist 'Ashri Hashim 'Abd-al-Rahman. The security forces seized an ammunition box, five pistols, several molotov cocktails, a rifle, and six magazines.

Meanwhile, the security forces carried out sweeps in other governorates, arresting 18 terrorists. They include fugitive terrorist Tariq Na'im Riyad 'Abd-al-Tawwab, a terrorist leader in Bani Suwayf, accused in several cases of violence, attacks, and throwing bombs at police installations in Bani Suwayf Governorate in 1991. The security forces also arrested fugitive terrorist Majdi Muhammad Khalil, who is accused in several cases, including cases 391/83, 462/83, 92/91, and 41/86. This terrorist traveled abroad where he met with fugitive terrorist elements with whom he agreed to carry out hostile acts in Egypt.

The source said all the defendants will be referred to the prosecutor, who will take the necessary legal measures against them. The ministry will issue further statements on the results of other police sweeps.

Security Forces Seize 150 Suspected 'Militants'

NC0210170693 Paris AFP in English 1640 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, Oct 2 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces detained 150 suspected Islamic militants Saturday [2 October] in nationwide raids as part of a security clampdown ahead Monday's presidential election, police said.

The authorities, acting on tip-offs that Islamic militants planned to destabilise the country ahead of the vote, have stepped up security to prevent any fundamentalist violence before or during the election.

President Husni Mubarak is expected to be re-elected for a third six-year term Monday. He is the only candidate.

Saturday's raids took place in several provinces countrywide, police said. [passage omitted]

The director of state security, General Zahir Nassar, has meanwhile told his key aides to ensure that voting takes place quickly in order to avoid congestion in polling booths. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Dies From Bullet Wound in Asyut

NC0310175993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Asyut, 3 Oct (MENA)—A terrorist died in the plantation area of Markaz Abu Tij in Asyut Governorate in Upper Egypt. He sustained a bullet wound, which was probably fired by local residents in revenge for his acts of violence and terrorism against them. The dead terrorist was named as Samir Muhammad Ahmad al-'Atifi, 32, a student dismissed from the business college, and a dangerous terrorist.

The security authorities found two pistols on him, one a German-made (Walter) type and the other Belgian-made with two bullets. They also found a leather case with a jar containing powder and nails. A motorcycle without license plates and with bullet marks was found near his body.

Eyewitnesses said the terrorist was driving the motorcycle. An unidentified man telephoned Markaz Abu Tij police station, saying he heard shooting in the plantation area on the outskirts of al-Zarabi village and that a man was hit by a bullet.

The security forces went to the scene, where they found the terrorist with serious wounds. He died en route to hospital. The prosecution is investigating.

'Terrorist Element' Arrested 'On Suspicion'

NC0410212893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2028 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—The security agencies today arrested a terrorist element named Jabir Ahmad Taha Muhammad, 25, a confectionery worker living in Bani Suwayf, on his arrival at the railway station in Cairo to

make some contacts and receive instructions from a number of detained terrorist elements.

Investigation Bureau officers who were securing the railway station arrested the terrorist on suspicion. Searching him, they found in his possession eight permits to visit a number of terrorist elements who are detained in the Turah prison.

During interrogation, the terrorist admitted that he had come to Cairo at the instructions of a person named 'Abbas Mahmud 'Urabi, who ordered him to head for the al-Jala' courthouse on Ramsis Street to meet a lawyer named Ibrahim 'Ali al-Sayyid and obtain permits to visit the eight terrorists.

The State Security Investigation Department interrogated the suspect to determine his relationship with the terrorist elements.

Planned Rabin-'Arafat Meeting in Cairo Reported

NC0510103793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1014 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 5 Oct (MENA)—A highly placed Palestinian source has said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet in Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday. The source, a PLO Executive Committee member, said the meeting is being held because of Rabin's request to discuss arrangements for implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Gad Ben-Ari, the Israeli prime minister's media adviser, told Israel radio today that Rabin will meet 'Arafat in Cairo tomorrow. The radio pointed out that 'Arafat and Rabin shook hands for the first time during the Gaza-Jericho agreement signing ceremony at the White House.

Israeli Ambassador Previews Meeting

NC0510121593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1144 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Ambassador David Sultan has announced that the meeting between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday, will deal with boosting the Middle East peace process and implementing the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, which was signed in Washington on 13 September.

Sultan added that Rabin's visit to Cairo will last only a few hours because he must return to Israel for a Jewish religious holiday on Thursday.

Asked about president 'Arafat's request that Israel release Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin as a goodwill gesture, David Sultan said that all issues will be discussed during the meeting.

Tunisian Minister Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC0410200193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1751 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Sadok Fayala, Tunisian justice minister [title as received] and envoy of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit of several days to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, he said he is bringing a written message from President Zine El Abidine to President Husni Mubarak as part of the continuous dialogue and consultation between the two leaders to boost bilateral relations.

He added that he will meet a number of officials and Minister of Justice Counselor Faruq Sayf-al-Nasr to discuss judicial cooperation and issues of common interest to the two countries.

Envoy Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0510130393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—Sadok Chaabane, Tunisian minister of justice [name and title as received] and envoy of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, left Cairo this afternoon following a one-day visit to Egypt during which he conveyed a message from the Tunisian president to President Husni Mubarak dealing with bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Talks With South Africa Begin

NC0110140493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1158 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—Talks between Egypt and South Africa on technical cooperation in electricity and energy opened today. The minister of electricity and energy, engineer Mahir Abazah, led the Egyptian side and the chairman of the South African Electricity Union led his country's delegation.

Engineer Abazah said the two sides had discussed the possibility of linking the electrical grids of African countries, in addition to the electrical grid project between Zaire and Egypt which will pass through Chad, Central Africa, and Sudan to benefit from the 60,000 kilowatt/hours of electricity generated by the (Anga) River falls in Zaire. He added that they had also discussed the possibility of South Africa contributing to this project.

He said the two sides had also discussed the possibility of technical cooperation in generating electricity by conventional means, the transfer and distribution of energy, and the exchange of expertise and technical research as the next stage.

The minister of electricity said a protocol will be signed at the end of the delegation's visit, which will specify the aspects of future cooperation in light of the outcome of the delegation's meetings with the Electricity Ministry's various departments.

Minister Leaves Cairo

NC0310174593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1622 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—South African Interior Minister Hernus Kriel [title as received] and his delegation left Cairo at noon today after a three-day visit to Egypt.

During his stay, the South African minister held talks with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi and senior Ministry officials on bilateral security cooperation. He also visited several Interior Ministry departments, where he acquainted himself with the latest training methods used by Egyptian police officers and the security agencies' advanced and modern drug-combating techniques.

This is the first such visit to Egypt by a South African minister.

Libya

Lockerbie Case Lawyers To Meet Suspects in Tripoli

NC0510084693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0729 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Oct (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Ghawil, coordinator of the Lockerbie suspects' committee of defense counsels, told MENA today that committee members will meet with the two suspects for consultations in Tripoli at the end of this week. They will discuss the guarantees offered by the U.S. and British Governments outlined in the memorandum presented by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali.

Al-Ghawil noted that Libya has already made it clear that it would not oppose the voluntary surrender of the two suspects.

The defense committee—which includes Arab, U.S., British, German, French, Swiss, and Maltese lawyers—will state its position on this matter at the beginning of next week in a memorandum it will address to Dr. Butrus-Ghali.

Arab League Chief Cited on Dispute With West

LD0210163393 Tripoli JANA in English 0836 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] New York, al-Timur [October] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary general of the Arab League Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that the League was following with interest developments in the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and Western countries.

In an interview with (Sawt al-Arab) [Voice of the Arabs] radio the secretary general expressed his hope that a solution will be reached for this issue. He refer to a positive moves [as received] made by the Great Jamahiriyah and her civilized stance in dealing with the crisis.

Envoy Discusses 'Crisis' With Pakistani Counterpart

LD0210122693 Tripoli JANA in English 0839 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] New York, al-Tumur [October] 2, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation last Thursday [30 September] in New York met with Sayeed Abdus Sattar, the foreign minister of Pakistan.

The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways and means to develop and foster them for the mutual interest of the two friendly countries and the developments in the crisis between the Great Jamahriyah and Western countries.

Al-Qadhadhfi: No Mercy for Adherents of 'Heresy'

LD0310044093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2026 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Question and answer session by leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi with citizens in Ajdabiya; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-Qadhdhafi] What we fear, as the hajj said, are knives and bows and arrows. But those bear no relation to whether we have rifles or not. That means that there are other nationalities who have come to our country with knives, bows, and arrows and other things we have mentioned. [words indistinct] from Tripoli to Tubruq; we find them on every street in groups here and there. They have no IDs, passports, or medical certificates; we did not ask for them and we do not know what countries they are from. [words indisticts] they can do anything [words indistinct] to cleanse those regions, particularly Sabha, Ajdabiya, and Kufrah. That's where people from Africa infiltrate Libya. They have dangerous diseases that, if allowed to spread among you, would kill you. So the first thing to do, is to cleanse those regions of these people who must be returned to their countries and not be allowed to come back. Anyone who comes we have to make sure [words indistinct]. We have to get rid of them and not open the door of employment to them in our country unless they are needed by the state. If the state requires labor or needs them, that's all right.

[Passage omitted] [al-Qadhdhafi] There is no truce with or mercy for heresy and its adherents. You can see what they are doing in Egypt and Algeria. We cannot allow our country to be like Egypt or Algeria. [passage omitted] You cannot defend a man who joined one of those groups. If they grow in numbers, they will set the country on fire, and it will become like Egypt. They have to be destroyed now. You have been following their activities. They have to be destroyed. If we allow them to grow, we will have street shootings and assassinations. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Senegalese Nationals Refused Entry Into Country

AB0210120593 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1230 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] There is visible tension between Senegal and Mauritania since 6,000 illegal Senegalese immigrants in Mauritania are no longer wanted there. What led to this

situation is another incident in a series of incidents between the two countries. It happened 8 km from Nouakchott at the Nouakchott entry point. On 23 September, Mauritanian police prevented 218 Senegalese from entering the country. According to the Mauritanian police, the Senegalese did not meet the entry requirements. The chairman of the Association of Senegalese People in Mauritania, John Dieng, reacted by saying this latest incident pours oil onto the fire and is regrettable. He spoke to Salem Mej Bour Salem about this:

[Begin Dieng recording] Many Senegalese have come to Mauritania since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries. For some of them it was a first visit, but many of them, like me, were returning to the country following the regrettable incidents of April 1989 of which you are aware. We were happy to return to Mauritania, a country we have always considered our second home. However, for a week now, Senegalese nationals living in Mauritania have been facing situations that are regrettable for brother countries whose leaders have issued many statements advocating rapprochement between the two countries. The two countries had been living in perfect harmony for thousands of years prior to April 1989.

Contrary to all expectations, the calm of Senegalese nationals living in Mauritania has been seriously ruffled. We have been asked to submit an exchange receipt for 30,000 CFA francs or face immediate repatriation to Senegal, and the same goes for those who have permission to stay in Mauritania that has been duly signed by the two countries.

Henceforth, all Senegalese entering the country should meet the following requirements: They should have a national identity card or hold a valid passport, have a health card, and above all, produce the required 30,000 CFA francs, which seems to be the cause of the situation we are currently facing. [end recording]

Morocco

Filali Pledges Support to Israeli-PLO Peace Process

LD0210164893 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, Oct. 02 (MAP)—The holding of the conference on support to the peace process in the Middle East within three weeks of the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles is evidence of "all the interest in reinforcing the chances for peace in the Middle East", Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali said.

In an address before the conference held here Friday [1 October], the Moroccan minister stressed that "a new mighty impetus should be given to this encouraging beginning through securing more success for the other issues of the Israeli-Arab negotiations to reach our ultimate goal: that of global and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of Resolutions 242, 338 and 425".

He voiced satisfaction at the fact that a great number of world nations has promptly pledged and committed to support the peace initiative in the Mideast stressing that Morocco will spare no endeavor to supply technical assistance to the carrying out of the projects which would help develop the region.

At the end of the conference, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher told the press the international financial contribution pledged would help shore up the new political aspect created in the Middle East by the signing of the Israeli-PLO declaration of principles.

American Secretary of Treasury Lloyd Bentsen said the mobilization of funds is to reach 600 million dollars for the first year and two billion dollars could be committed for the five coming years to develop the social and economic sectors in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The United States pledged 500 million dollars over a five year period, Japan 200 million for two years, Saudi Arabia 100 million for one year, Israel 25 million and the European Community 600 million dollars over five years.

PLO's 'Abbas Expresses Thanks to King Hassan

LD0410133593 Rabat MAP in English 1251 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 4 (MAP)—Palestinians highly appreciate the considerable efforts made by King Hassan II to ensure the Palestinian people an acceptable peace, said Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO's Executive Committee.

In a statement to MAP, the Palestinian official said the efforts deployed by the sovereign since twenty-five years yielded their results and affirmed that Palestinians have always drawn their inspiration from King Hassan II. Palestinians were always keen on consulting their Moroccan brothers on the Palestinian issue, Abu-Mazin said.

On the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Abu-Mazin said it is the first time that Israel recognized in a written document the existence of the Palestinian people, their national rights and their reprentative, the PLO.

The agreement also covers the issues of Israeli settlements and Palestinian refugees and sets a time table for their discussion. the Palestinian official said stressing that the Palestinians refuse these settlements which are illegal, according to UN Security Resolution 242 and U.S. assurances made during the Madrid conference.

The Palestinian negotiators have implicitly included the al-Quds [Jerusalem] issue in the agreement which practically means the annulment of the Israeli decision to annex al-Quds, Abu-Mazin went stressing that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement does not deal solely with the Gaza Strip and the city of Jericho but covers the whole occupied territories. He also surveyed the various phases of the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and affirmed that definite statute of the occupied territories will be dealt with after the expiry of the temporary period.

French General Calls For Strengthening Ties

LD0110191993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Admiral Jacques Lanxade, chief of the French Armed Forces General Command, and the accompanying military delegation left the military school airfield of the Royal Armed Forces airbase in Marrakesh after a visit to Morocco. While in Morocco, Lanxade was received by His Majesty King Hassan II.

At the base's VIP lounge, Admiral Lanxade made a statement in which he explained his visit to Morocco had been aimed at strengthening military cooperation between the two countries. He recalled that the Moroccan and French sides believe the time has come to give a new dynamism to this cooperation and to define its framework. He added that relations between the Royal and French Armed Forces are deeply rooted; they should be strengthened and bolstered and based on firm foundations.

The admiral lauded the Royal Armed Forces and the Royal Gendarmerie. He stressed that the military experts in the two countries will work to develop bilateral cooperation and push it forward.

Sudan

Abu-Salih on U.S. Charges, PLO-Israeli Deal

PM0410151093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Oct 93 p 6

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] What stage has been reached in the Egyptian endeavors to ease the severity of the tension in U.S.-Sudanese relations?

[Abu-Salih] To begin with, it must be made clear and stressed that it was the United States which sought to ignite the Sudanese people's demonstrations against it, especially as it accused them of terrorism, which they reject. This has reactivated their desire to defend themselves before world and Arab public opinion. And we have not hesitated to explain our just cause in all international and Arab forums. We recently briefed the Arab foreign ministers council on the situation which prompted the U.S. Administration to accuse us of supporting terrorism. The OAU assistant secretary general has told us that [Egyptian] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent official messages to a large number of states in response to Sudan's request in this connection. He will make new endeavors with the U.S. Administration during his visit to Washington in November. Furthermore, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, will raise the Sudanese issue on the sidelines of the the UN General Assembly meetings.

[Abu-Husayn] But why all that escalation between your country and the U.S. Administration? The most recent incident was the Sudanese threats to the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum.

[Abu-Salih] Any foreigner or even American living on Sudan's territory encounters from us every attention and care, because he lives in a secure country. The U.S. Embassy in Khartoum has not been subjected to any threats, and we are willing to investigate any behavior that emanated from us toward the U.S. ambassador. Power outages happen anywhere and have nothing to do with stirring up problems. We respect and protect anyone living on our territory. The opposite is true: It is the U.S. Administration which from time to time arouses hostility and hatred in our people and escalates differences between us and it by its continuous support for the rebel movement in the south, which began with financial support and ended today by accusing Sudan of supporting terrorism. At the same time it continues to protect the terrorist rebel movement and meet with its senior men in Washington. It would have been more proper for it to differentiate between siding with a terrorist movement and supporting the Sudanese Government.

Can Sudan support Hizballah and the Islamic Jihad by "remote control," as the location of these parties' headquarters are known to everyone? At any rate, we are fully aware of the reasons which prompted the U.S. Administration to accuse us of terrorism. We know the reasons which cause it to go out of its mind. It is enough to mention some of them: the situation in the south, for instance. As the peace talks began between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement, it received John Garang's men and obstructed the efforts exerted by four African leaders, namely the presidents of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, and Kenya—which disrupted the peace agreement we are seeking with the rebel movement. As a result, the cease-fire was violated and military operations resumed by it. As is known, popular defense camps are playing a major role in stabilizing the situation in the south, which is why the United States accused us and described these camps as terrorist.

[Abu-Husayn] But what is the U.S. Administration's aim in escalating the situation with you?

[Abu-Salih] We openly declare that the United States intends to intervene in the south so that the situation would become similar to that in Somalia. We have warned and continue to warn about this situation. And we have recently submitted a memorandum to the Arab League Council. It included the Sudanese Government's attempts to conclude peace agreements with the rebel movement in the south and the dangers facing Sudan and threatening its security, which we consider part of pan-Arab security and thus must be among the Arab League's documents.

So the U.S. Administration's aim is to exhaust Sudan in the south and to drag it into wars and battles and then control and dominate it. But we will not give it the opportunity to do so, nor will we ever be subservient to anyone. It knows that Sudan is in charge of its own decisionmaking, holding its head high, demanding its own rights, and will never submit to the influence of any state, no matter which.

[Abu-Husayn] Why does Sudan not handle its problems with the United States through dialogue, instead of the slogans of threats and escalation?

[Abu-Salih] The method of dialogue with the U.S. Administration proved a failure in the past. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter made attempts in the past, especially in relation to finding evidence to prove the U.S. accusations against Sudan. He talked with us several times and with the U.S. Administration as well. He told us in the end that there is no U.S. evidence to prove the accusation against Sudan, but the condemnation decision has been issued and we shall try together with you to persuade the United States that Sudan has nothing to do with terrorism, that the description does not apply to it, and that Sudan is a very peaceful country.

Nevertheless, we have no hostile intentions toward the United States, and we consider it a superpower and wish to establish a calm diplomatic dialogue in which to discuss all disputed issues, but without imposing the logic and policy of subservience on us. We want the U.S. Administration to convince us of the crime and mistakes Sudan has committed.

[Abu-Husayn] But Sudan is still unable to restore balance to its foreign relations...

[Abu-Salih] That is a mere accusation, because Sudan's foreign policy is based on respect for other states' policies and systems and noninterference in their affairs, and we want to be treated in the same way.

[Abu-Husayn] If that is the case, why has no development occurred in Sudanese-Arab relations?

[Abu-Salih] Everyone knows what happened to inter-Arab relations, especially after the second Gulf war. This question requires time, not on our part, but on the part of some Arab states seeking to be given enough time to settle the differences that took place. And we are sensing major progress vis-a-vis the possibility of improving relations with the Arab states. And we also respect and appreciate all the views raised regarding Arab reconciliation. In the forefront of these states is Kuwait, because it is certain that Arab reconciliation is a basic and vital requirement for the Arab region's interests.

[Abu-Husayn] Did you raise this issue with the Kuwaiti foreign minister on the sidelines of the Arab League Council's 100th session?

[Abu-Salih] Yes, but I will not reveal any details. Everything will be revealed in time.

[Abu-Husayn] How does Sudan view the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and do you have any reservations about it?

[Abu-Salih] Sudan welcomed the agreement as a first step toward a comprehensive and just peace. Sudan considers it a prelude to Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and to giving the Palestinian people all their legitimate rights. All Arab states expressed the same support. In this context we believe it is important to sponsor the peace steps at both the Arab and international levels and to be alert to any disruption that could occur from time to time, so that the first step will succeed and move toward actual implementation. I believe that the delay in the Syrian-Israeli agreement falls in the context of testing Israeli intentions as regards the implementation of the agreement signed with the Palestinians.

Al-Turabi: Gaza-Jericho Deal 'Capitulation'

PM0410092293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Sep 93 p1

[Unattributed report: "Al-Turabi Voices Reservations About Gaza-Jericho Agreement"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-HAYAH—The General Secretariat of the "Islamic Arab People's Conference," led by [National Islamic Front leader] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi has issued a statement describing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as "a peace and capitulation plan which conflicts with the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic principle rejecting Israel."

The statement points out that the agreement has deferred the Jerusalem issue and the 1948 refugees issue, "and offers nothing but qualified Palestinian self-rule with limited land." And it has mortgaged the other issues "to trust in Israel and an oppressive and hostile United States."

The statement urged the Palestinian people "to safeguard the unity of ranks and abandon splittism and fragmentation," and not to "turn differences into infighting, especially as some world media services would talk especially about the Arabs' chaos."

Assembly Chairman Criticizes 'New World Order'

EA0310213593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly, said the new world order has revealed its tentacles, which are moving towards opening new apertures for the entry of colonialism. He said that this makes it essential for this generation to guard itself against cultural colonialism, which aims to put an end to the national sovereignty of peoples, and to contain cultural pluralism so that the world will be ruled by a single power and a single ideology.

Speaking at the end of the conference of the Union of African Parliaments in Tunis, Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah said it was up to the African peoples to become aware of the current dangers and overcome their differences. He noted that the border crises left behind by colonialism constituted a hotbed, that colonialism is bent on exploiting in order to impose its hegemony. Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah said Sudan had preferred to be ruled by god's law instead of by the Germans [as heard] in response to the wishes of its people. It had made that decision after embarking on a theoretical plan to bring about [words indistinct] adjustments.

Mr. Khalifah called on the African states to coordinate in implementing their economic and political strategies and to apply democratic systems suitable for the peoples of the African continent. He added that the peoples of the continent had pinned their hopes on their constitutional and judicial institutions to bring to realization their aspirations to liberation, salvation and prosperity.

Al-Bashir Briefed on Minister's Visit to Yemen

EA0310170093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has been briefed on the visit paid by Mr. Abd al-Basit Sabdarat, the minister of education, to Yemen recently and during which he delivered a message from Lt.-Gen. Bashir to the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salih. The letter dealt with the dimensions of the American decision which alleges that Sudan fosters terrorism and an explanation from Sudan on the matter.

His Excellency added, when meeting Lt.-Gen. Bashir today at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers, that he discussed with the Yemeni president relations between the two countries in the light of the meeting of the Sudanese-Yemeni ministerial committee. He pointed out that the Yemeni president stressed Yemen's understanding of what was happening in Sudan. The Yemeni president also said that his country was convinced that terrorism could not be said to be a feature of the Sudanese people. Mr. Sabdarat said that this could be felt from their media.

During his visit the minister met the people in different political organizations including the socialist party and the Yemeni Reform Party. He also met a number of members of parliament as well as members of the Sudanese community in Yemen.

Former President Carter Accepts Invitation for Visit

EA0210211793 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 2 October (SUNA)—State minister at the federal government chamber and government spokesman to the peace talks Dr. Ali al-Hajj announced that the former U.S. President Jimmy Carter had accepted the invitation extended by the chairman of the Revolution Command Council General Umar al-Bashir to visit the Sudan for conducting consultations on his recent initiative of mediation between Sudan's government and the rebel movement for achieving peace in the country.

He said that the director of political department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mahdi Ibrahim, who participated at the U.N. General Assembly meetings, had met Carter [on] Thursday [30 September] in New York and handed him a message from Gen. Bashir dealing with [the] peace issue in the Sudan and the Sudanese-American relations.

Mahdi hailed Carter's efforts in [the] peace issue, pointing to his recent desire to mediate between the two sides.

Official Denies Amnesty Allegations of Bombing

EA0110154593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Oct (SUNA)—Sudan has denied that the Armed Forces has bombarded the civilians in southern Sudan and refuted allegations by international amnesty organizations saying that the Armed Force [as received] has shelled the civilians in the south to force them to leave their areas.

Under-secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Mukhtar, confirmed in a statement to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH daily newspaper of today that the outlaws movement had carried out these shelling operations against the civilians, pointing out that the outlaws aimed at creating a problem to the Sudan Government and hindering relief and supply transport to the affected areas.

He explained that the outlaws shell the tribes there because they are not loyal to them. He added that it is not possible that the government shells the civilians' houses while it is endeavoring to create settlement and peace. He said that the Amnesty International organization is against Sudan and created allegations against the Sudan Government.

Minister Denies Using Food Supply as Weapon

EA0110162593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Oct (SUNA)—Minister of Peace and Rehabilitation Abdullah Deng Nhial has refuted Western mass media's allegations that the government is using food as arms against the outlaws, saying the government has never committed such practice.

Interviewed by the STANDARD daily of Kenya on Thursday [30 September], Nhial said more than 80,000 tonnes of relief supplies had been transported to the affected areas, adding that the government is providing all services to the returnees from the outlaws movement in the villages established to receive them.

He affirmed the government's welcome to the peace initiative by the Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi concerning the southern Sudan problem, affirming the religious freedom in the country.

Ummah Leaders' Release Linked to UN Visit

PM0110144093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Sep 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Authorities Release Two Ummah Party Leaders"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Ummah Party sources have confirmed that Sudanese authorities have released two of the party's prominent leaders—namely (retired) Major General Fadlallah Barmah Nasir, former transport minister, and 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Nur, former governor of Kordofan—after seven months of detention.

The sources said that Barmah and al-Nur were released last Saturday [25 September]. They linked their release with the visit to Sudan by Dr. Caspar Pero [as transliterated], UN envoy for humanitarian affairs, to prepare a report on conditions there, especially with regard to human rights. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Sends Message to Egypt's Mubarak

LD0410201093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning met with Justice Minister Sadok Chaabane [title and name as received] and charged him with a mission as His Excellency's private envoy to Egyptian President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak. The mission falls within the traditional framework of talks between the two presidents on relations and regional issues concerning the two fraternal countries.

His Excellency the president charged the justice minister with carrying a written message from His Excellency to his brother President Hosni Mubarak.

Finance Minister Discusses Economic Reforms

LD0210170093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] A Tunisian delegation led by Mohammed al-Ghannouchi, minister for international cooperation and investment, is participating in the annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF currently being held in Washington. Mohammed al-Ghannouchi spoke to our Washington correspondent Wasila Baldi about Tunisia's participation and role in this meeting.

[Begin recording] [Baldi] Mohammed al-Ghannouchi, Tunisia is participating in the annual meetings of the World Bank. Could you tell us how Tunisia is participating in this year's meetings and what Tunisia is currently expecting from the World Bank?

[al-Ghannouchi] The Tunisian delegation has made numerous contacts on the sidelines of the World Bank and IMF annual meetings. Thanks to the reform policy that it has been pursuing in recent years, Tunisia enjoys the esteem and respect of financial circles considering the good results achieved in the area of growth, and in the area of controlling financial balances. What we are endeavoring to do through these contacts is to bolster the relations of cooperation with the World Bank and regional financial institutions in order to consolidate the gains [already] made, especially regarding support for the basic infrastructure, so that the average annual rate of growth in coming years will be six percent at fixed prices. This will make it possible to begin a new stage that will enable Tunisia to achieve its ambitious aims.

[Baldi] Yes. Regarding the economic reform program in Tunisia, that we know Tunisia began some time ago, are there any other remaining projects in this program? Has Tunisia implemented most of the projects? What remains of this program [to be implemented]?

[al-Ghannouchi] Tunisia has implemented many stages in this reform program and currently 86 percent of imports and 90 percent of prices are free [of controls]. Tunisia has restructured the financial sector and the coming year will be decisive in completing the various stages of the reform policy and the liberalization of the economy in the areas of both imports and prices.

[Baldi] Regarding the convertibility of the Tunisian dinar which has become convertible in international currency markets—we know that this step was taken not long ago—what are the immediate results of this procedure, namely the [convertibility] of the Tunisian dinar?

[al-Ghannouchi] This is a recent measure that was announced at the end of last year by His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and was implemented by the government during this year. One of the most important repercussions of this measure has been a boost to the competitiveness of Tunisian enterprises, the enterprises which are operating in Tunisia, in that they can undertake [currency] exchanges without going through complicated procedures and arrangements. [end recording]

Oman

Qabus Ends 'Historic' Visit to Yemen, Returns

JN0410162893 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpt] With God's care, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id returned to the homeland this afternoon from Sanaa at the end of his historic three-day visit to the sisterly Republic of Yemen during which he held talks with his brother his excellency the Yemeni president dealt with developing bilateral relations of cooperation and important Arab and international issues of mutual concern.

On his arrival at Salalah Civil Airport, his majesty the sultan was received by His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab Al Sa'id, the personal representative of his majesty the sultan, and His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Omani Sultan Qabus Pays Official 3-Day Visit

President Salih Welcomes Visit

JN0110163493 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the fraternal Republic of Yemen, has expressed his pleasure over the gracious visit His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id will make to Yemen tomorrow, Saturday.

In a statement to the Omani News Agency today, his excellency the Yemeni Presidential Council chairman added: We are happy. We welcome the visit of his majesty the sultan to Yemen, his second home. His excellency the Yemeni Presidential Council chairman noted that this visit reflects the strength and excellence of the fraternal and special ties between Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman. He described these ties as intimate, adding that they date back to ancient times. These ties, he noted, are also based on strong kinship, positive cooperation, good neighborliness, and mutual respect.

President Salih went on to say: The Yemeni people hope that this visit will open broader horizons and enhance fraternal bilateral ties so that a breakthrough may be reached in realizing the aspirations of the two neighborly peoples and promoting their common interests.

Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih reiterated that the border agreement signed between the two countries has set a good example to be emulated by brothers in resolving outstanding issues among them through a responsible national dialogue that should ensure that no harm is done to any party, and that there are no victors or vanquished in any dispute resolution. His excellency added that this agreement has opened new vistas for fraternal and effective bilateral cooperation in various spheres. He expressed optimism over the future of Yemeni-Omani ties and hope that they will bring about further well-being, prosperity, and mutual benefits for the two neighborly peoples.

His excellency the Yemeni Presidential Council chairman affirmed that there are no limits to the cooperation that could be forged between Yemen and Oman, noting that there are several areas in which such cooperation could be effected. He noted his support for all that could enhance and promote bilateral ties, and identify ways and means to promote the common interests of both countries.

Sultan Qabus Arrives 2 Oct

JN0210135193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Sanaa, 2 Oct (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman arrived in Sanaa today on an official three-day visit to Yemen.

The sultan of Oman was welcomed by Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council members, the House of Representatives speaker, the prime minister, the ministers, and senior Yemeni officials.

On his arrival, Sultan Qabus expressed pleasure at visiting Yemen. He said: We are sure that this visit will be a good opportunity to discuss the scopes of fruitful and constructive cooperation in order to achieve continuity between the two countries. He affirmed his pride in their joint history and the shared objective to bring happiness and prosperity to both countries.

Salih, Qabus View Ties, Cooperation

JN0310091393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Excerpts] An official round of talks between our country and the sisterly Sultanate of Oman was held at the Sanaa Presidential Office at 1900 yesterday. The talks were chaired by brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. [passage omitted]

During the talks, the two leaders discussed the brotherly relations and cooperation between the two sisterly countries, as well as ways to promote them to more advanced levels to consolidate relations and expand cooperation in all spheres.

The two sides reviewed the positive results of the meetings of the joint ministerial committee set up by the two countries. They expressed satisfaction with those results, which reflect the level of relations that has been reached between the two fraternal countries, especially after the signing of the Yemeni-Omani border agreement, whose first anniversary is being celebrated by the two peoples. This agreement constitutes a good example for resolving issues between brothers on the basis of fraternal dialogue, understanding, and entrenching the principle of mutual benefit.

The two sides expressed eagerness to broaden the horizon of bilateral relations as a reflection of the ties of brotherhood and (?neighborhood) between the two fraternal peoples. They also reviewed regional, Arab, and international issues and developments of interest to the two sisterly countries and [words indistinct] the Arab and Islamic nation.

The two sides stressed eagerness to enhance the two sisterly countries' efforts to revive Arab solidarity, serve the Arab nation's issues, and bolster the process of security, stability, and peace in the region.

During the talks, the two leaders exchanged souvenirs—two antique swords—as an expression of the affection and brotherhood binding the two fraternal peoples and as an embodiment of their ancient history. [passage omitted]

Afterward, the two brother leaders held a closed session. The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that the two Arab leaders discussed the brotherly relations and ways to promote them and push them toward more advanced horizons that meet the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples and serve the interests of the Arab nation. The two leaders also discussed a number of issues and developments of interest to the two sisterly countries and to the Arab and Islamic nation, particularly the efforts to revive Arab solidarity, the Palestine question, and the Middle East peace process.

Minutes, Grant Agreement Signed

JN0410165293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] The minutes of meetings held by Yemeni ministers and their fraternal Omani counterparts were signed at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa this morning. The meetings were held under brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of industry, and chief of the General Investment Corporation, and Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs in the fraternal Sultanate of Oman.

The minutes addressed the aspects of bilateral cooperation in various spheres. The minutes specifically addressed a bilateral trade and economic agreement, a grant offered by the Sultanate of Oman to implement [words indistinct] the two fraternal Arab states, an agreement facilitating the entry of agricultural products in both countries [words indistinct] Omani investors to invest in the Republic of Yemen, and the facilities offered in accordance with the Yemeni Investment Law. The minutes also covered the aspects of bilateral cooperation in the areas of oil, grain silos, air transportation, information, and culture.

The two sides affirmed the importance of the exchange of visits by officials in both countries, particularly since this would help implement everything that has been agreed upon and enshrined in the minutes.

The minutes were signed by brothers Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar and Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im. Prior to the signing of the minutes, an agreement on a grant offered to Yemen by the Sultanate of Oman was signed. The agreement provides Yemen with a grant totaling $21 million as part of funds to be allocated for building a land route that will link the two fraternal countries. This agreement was signed by Construction and Repair Minister brother engineer 'Abdallah Husayn al-Kurshumi and Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs.

Brothers Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar and Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi made statements to Yemeni and Omani media after the meeting minutes were signed. Brother Qays al-Zawawi expressed his pleasure over signing the meeting minutes and the agreement. He said that the $21 million grant the Sultanate of Oman provided Yemen will be used for financing the construction of a land route to link the two fraternal countries. This route will extend over 250 km from the area of (Shahn) to al-Ghaydah. He affirmed that this is an embodiment of the fraternal bilateral ties reflecting the common desire of both countries to enhance and promote bilateral cooperation in economic and trade fields and other areas in the interest of the two fraternal peoples. He added: The meeting minutes signed today reviewed the overall issues agreed upon under the framework cooperation agreement signed in Muscat in December 1992, which provides for holding meetings by the Joint Omani-Yemeni Committee. The minutes also evaluated the steps taken thus far to implement this agreement.

Brother Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi said an atmosphere of fraternity and cordiality permeated the meetings held between Yemeni and Omani ministers. The talks dealt with various issues, such as the issue of enhancing bilateral trade [words indistinct], encouraging investment in the two fraternal countries, and cooperation in the areas of oil, minerals, and air transportation.

Concluding his statement, he indicated that an executive program to implement these minutes has been agreed upon.

For his part, Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and minister of industry, affirmed the importance of bilateral cooperation and joint investment. He maintained that both Yemen and Oman believe that economic integration is one of the greatest objectives the Arab states should try to realize as soon as possible. The Arabs, he argued, are in a race against time to achieve this objective, particularly since the gap is widening between the Arabs and the rest of the world. This requires all Arabs to forge ahead together to achieve integration and cooperation, away from interference in political affairs. He affirmed that the basic aim should be to enhance economy and joint ventures. He added that by so doing, Yemen and Oman are setting a great example to others in the Arab world. This is an endeavor meant to promote and strengthen cooperation in various areas. He pointed out that the two sides have expressed their willingness to achieve this goal. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Qabus for offering Yemen this grant, which will help Yemen conduct a study regarding the route. Afterward, this grant will be used to build this route, which will

link the two fraternal countries together. This, he noted, is a beginning for other projects with all fraternal Gulf states.

Concluding his statement, al-'Attar affirmed that the expansion of road networks and transportation facilities is one of the most important economic pillars in the Arab world.

Final Talks Held; Qabus Departs

JN0410161193 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The two brother leaders, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, held final brotherly talks in the presence of brothers 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, members of the Presidential Council, and Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The two leaders discussed aspects of the warm brotherly relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to promote them to greater levels based on brotherly cooperation, to exchange benefits, and to meet the joint interests of the two sisterly and neighboring countries. They also discussed regional, Arab, Islamic, and international developments of interest to both sisterly countries and the Arab and Islamic nations.

The two Arab leaders expressed satisfaction with the positive results of the visit and stressed their eagerness to promote the brotherly relations, reinforce areas of cooperation between the two sisterly countries, and achieve more benefits and progress for the two brotherly and neighboring peoples. They also stressed the two countries' keenness to back every effort to restore Arab solidarity, serve our Arab nation's causes, and support the march of security, stability, and just peace. [passage omitted]

Following the successful historic three-day visit to our country, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman and the delegation accompanying him left Sanaa for Muscat at noon today with God's care and protection. He was accorded a warm and cordial send-off, just like he received when he arrived in the country, to emphasize the warm brotherly relations between our country and the Sultanate of Oman. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received a cable from his brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, who left the country via Sanaa International Airport. Following is the text of the cable: Your Excellency Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Sali, the Republic of Yemen, Sanaa. Following the end of our visit to your sisterly country, we are pleased to express our deep gratitude to Your Excellency brother President for the cordial reception and hospitality you and your sisterly Yemeni Government accorded us. This expresses the brotherly feelings tying us and the peoples of our two sisterly countries. The warm popular reception accorded us impressed us when the masses of your brotherly people expressed the strong ties between the two leaderships and the two peoples within the framework of the distinguished close relations between our countries, the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen. We beseech God to preserve you and grant you good health and happiness and to grant your brotherly Yemeni people strength and prosperity under your excellency's wise leadership. Please accept our brotherly regards.

[Signed] Your brother, Qabus Bin-Sa'id

Talks With UN Delegation Continue 4 Oct

JN0410212193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1937 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Oct (INA)—Talks between Iraq and the UN delegation today continued at the Foreign Ministry for the third consecutive day.

The talks, headed for the Iraqi side by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and for the UN team by Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, seek to complete discussion of the remaining secondary issues concerning Part C of Resolution 687—pertaining to the weapons of mass destruction Iraq is prohibited from possessing—in order to close that issue once and for all. Most of the remaining paragraphs were settled during the two rounds of talks held in Baghdad and New York in July and September.

The closure of the prohibited weapons file means that the UN Security Council will meet its obligations toward Iraq by implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 which provides for the lifting of the economic embargo imposed against Iraq.

The Iraqi side to the talks also includes Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization; Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, Foreign Ministry senior under secretary; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and a number of experts and technicians. The UN delegation includes Professor Zifferero, deputy head of the International Atomic Energy Agency; Tim Trevan, spokesman for the UN Special Commission; and a number of experts.

Rolf Ekeus stressed that the Baghdad talks are being held in a positive atmosphere. In a press statement here tonight, Ekeus said Iraq and the UN Special Commission will resume their talks tomorrow, Tuesday.

Ekeus Says Talks 'Positive'

NC0410205893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2017 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Oct (MENA)—Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN (?special) committee, has described his fourth session of talks with Iraq as positive and fruitful.

In statements to foreign journalists in Baghdad this evening, he said he will continue his discussion with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz on several controversial issues tomorrow morning, Tuesday [5 October].

Ekeus refused to comment on a (?question) by the MENA correspondent in Baghdad on a six-month period as a test of good intentions if the talks succeed and the ban on oil export is partially lifted. He said: We are still in the negotiating phase and when we reach a conclusion we will announce it. To answer this question would be premature. [passage omitted]

Al-Sahhaf Urges 'Radical Reforms' to UN Structure

JN0510105693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] The United Nations, 5 Oct (INA)—Iraq has asked the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] to seek the introduction of radical reforms to the structure of the United Nations and the Security Council to change the current monopoly of international decisionmaking.

In a speech delivered by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf at the second session of the meeting of the NAM foreign ministers at the United Nations yesterday evening, the foreign minister pointed out that when a concrete change takes place to these fundamental aspects, then there will emerge a reassuring formula to the UN member states. Then, the member states will rest assured that the slogans and objectives in the report of the secretary general of the international organization will be achieved fairly and objectively.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf was explaining Iraq's position on a report known as "The Peace Plan" submitted by the UN secretary general.

The foreign minister said past experience shows that the Security Council is greatly subject to the will of some nations that have a permanent membership, especially the United States and some of its allies.

He added that the use of double standards is now clear in the way the Security Council approaches many issues. He wondered: How can the Security Council permanent members forfeit their independence and sovereignty to a body that cannot ensure justice and abidance by the rules of international law!

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf warned against using the concept of "preventive diplomacy" in a manner that enables powerful states at the Security Council to influence the objectivity and impartiality of international institutions and their information and reports. This will consequently transform preventive diplomacy into a tool in the hands of some powerful states, without the UN secretary general being able to provide guarantees that prevent this.

The foreign minister underscored the paramount importance of replying to the references made in the report of the UN secretary general regarding "limiting or restraining the principle of sovereignty of nations," saying that "actual practice will be at the expense of developing countries." He gave the example of establishing the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq, which is an illegal, internationally prohibited act. He said that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and his spokesman have often said that the United Nations has nothing to do with this purely military action, despite U.S. and allied claims that they are implementing Security Council resolutions.

The foreign minister added that Iraq supports any balanced formula of cooperation and coordination and integration between the United Nations and regional organizations in all spheres. Iraq, however, has fundamental reservations about the call in the secretary general's report regarding the

principle of sovereignty and the attempts to incorporate regional organizations, automatically and in an unbalanced fashion, into the Security Council mechanism.

If such a thing happens, it will open the door wide to some influential states at the Security Council to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations and undermine regional organizations, he said.

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces General Command Meeting

JN0410132893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Oct (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting attended by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the defense minister; and members of the Armed Forces General Command.

Military Exemptions Ordered To Meet Teacher Shortage

JN0210173193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has ordered a three-year exemption from military service for 1992/93 graduates of the faculties of education, literature, science, sharia, Arabic and English languages, religious education, and math. The announcement was made to INA by Minister of Education Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz, who said that the order—given against the backdrop of his excellency's recent meeting with educationists—responds to the ministry's call for plugging gaps in understaffed schools. The move, the minister indicated, should go a long way toward filling 3,000, 1,000, and 2,000 openings respectively for Arabic language, religious education, and math teachers.

Saddam Orders Pay Increase for School Night Watchmen

JN0210163993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has ordered that the monthly pay of night watchmen at colleges, institutes, schools, and other educational establishments be raised to 300 dinars. Minister of Education Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz told INA that his excellency the president ordered that retirees be hired to carry out that duty and be paid 300 dinars, over and above their pensions.

Ramadan Addresses Teachers, Vows New 'Arab Dawn'

JN0210165093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of leader President Saddam Husayn, the ordinary session of the central council of the Arab Teachers' Federation opened here today under the slogan: "For the sake of the nation's bright future, the Arab teachers are struggling."

Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, opened the session on behalf of President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Addressing the session, Ramadan said: The infidel hostile grouping imagined that the Iraqis' principles would be shaken by the fall of the first missile on a kindergarten, a school, or a university. The enemies thought Iraq's light could be extinguished if oil refineries and electricity and water networks were destroyed; that Iraq would be paralyzed if roads, bridges, and telecommunications were damaged; that the Iraqis would face slow death if they were denied food and medicine; and that the destruction of the Iraqis' economic, educational, service, cultural, and social infrastructure would lead to the destruction of their will and force them to relinquish their principles and surrender to the enemies.

He said the current clouds of Arab concessions, surrender, defeatism, and agreements that do not safeguard the nation's rights are temporary. These clouds will be dispelled. He said a new sunny Arab dawn will emerge from the struggle of the Arab masses who refuse to bow to foreigners, who refuse to be subservient, and who refuse to abandon the land. They will raise the banner of armed struggle and jihad to liberate our occupied territories from the usurpers. They will tear up the suspect agreements that are aimed at entrenching the occupation, hegemony, and colonialism. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister: No Iranian, Kuwaiti Prisoners Held

JN0210164693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Oct (INA)—Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid today received Michel Daccu [name as received], new head of the International Red Cross mission in Baghdad, in the presence of Allen Cheliman [name as received], the former head of the mission.

Allen Cheliman reviewed prospects for bilateral cooperation and the facilities that officials in Iraq have offered to his mission's members so they could fulfill their humanitarian role during his tenure in Iraq. He noted the understanding attitude displayed by the Iraqi officials toward the mission's work and their significant humanitarian interaction with its various activities, first of which are those related to the POW's and MIA'a.

Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid stressed that Iraq is not holding any Iranian or Kuwaiti prisoners. He said: Iraq has no interest in holding a single prisoner. This is our declared humanitarian, firm, and clear position that addresses this ongoing problem. Iraq dealt with this problem in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598, while Iran continued to procrastinate and delay the comprehensive and quick repatriation of Iraqi prisoners as stipulated by that binding resolution.

Two Officers Reportedly Join Kurdish Army

NC0410205193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Desertion from the Iraqi army is on the increase. On 29 September, two Iraqi army officers, a major and a captain, sought asylum with the peshmerga forces. They joined the 40th Brigade of the unified Kurdistan army. The major said that the living conditions in the Iraqi governorates is getting worse daily. He said he had not expected the humanitarian treatment and warm reception accorded them by the Kurdistan government officials.

Exclusive sources told our radio that other Iraqi personnel took refuge in Kurdistan the day before yesterday. They said that the number of deserters from the Iraqi army is increasing.

Turkish Forces Reportedly Bombard Kurdistan Areas

NC0310175293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Turkish ground and air forces broke through Kurdistan's border yesterday morning. The paper KURDISTAN reported that Turkish aircraft bombarded the (Sanat) area and the village of (Afa Jufi). Turkish ground forces crossed the Kurdish border from the two axes of (Bishta) and (Bala) and advanced on [name indistinct]. The paper said the Turkish aircraft bombed the (Tashta Takhti) area the day before yesterday, killing one woman and injuring five citizens, all Christians.

Oil Minister Expresses Interest in Helping Jordan

JN0410194693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad has met Nasuh al-Majali, ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in Iraq. They discussed ties between the two fraternal countries and means to improve them.

The oil minister voiced Iraq's interest in providing staff and technical advice to the fraternal country in the area of oil industries.

Trade Minister Addresses Economic Seminar on Embargo

JN0410132593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Oct (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has asserted that the basic objective of the continued economic embargo against Iraq by the United States and its allies is to bring famine to Iraq and achieve vile political objectives designed to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and independence.

Attending a seminar organized by the Iraqi economists' society and devoted to discussing the current trade and economic situation, the minister described the unjust embargo imposed on great Iraq as a terrorist act condemned by the international community because it is a crime against mankind, and is banned by the international and human charters and norms.

The minister added that since the embargo was imposed, the socialist trade sector has thus far managed to secure food for all citizens according to the food ration cards which guarantee basic food commodities for the Iraqi families. These commodities are subsidized by the state.

He explained that the U.S. Administration took several steps to maintain the sinful embargo, such as banning food supplies to Iraq and preventing Iraq from exporting its national products to purchase food and medicines. The minister pointed out that, in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's instructions, the state subsidizes the food commodities on the ration cards by 99 percent, with citizens paying only 1 percent under the current circumstances.

Planning Minister on Goals, Benefits of Privatization

JN0210174493 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 2, INA—Iraqi Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj has said the decision of converting the Industry Ministry's companies to stock companies is a wise and sound political and economic decision attributed to numerous reasons and justifications, Iraq is leading at present circumstances.

He has pointed out that there are big monetary surpluses possessed by certain segments of the society, namely, merchants and entreprenurs, most of which deposited at Iraqi banks amounting to more than ID [Iraqi Dinars] 36 billion.

Thus converting some public sector projects into stock companies would provide the opportunity to transfer part of these funds, deposited at banks or possessed by individuals, to investment channels, apart from that, investors have confidence in government projects.

The decision defined that the state enterprise to which the factory was connected should possess a percentage, no less than 25 per cent of shares. This proportion contributes to create a kind of confidence, monitoring and supervision.

The minister has further said that the existing monetary inflation can be traced in its major cause to the state of relative imbalance between monetary supply and commodity supply, i.e., there are amounts of money in circulation and are representing purchasing power much bigger than availability of products. This state of affairs causes the continued rise in commodities prices.

The Iraqi planning minister says, therefore, the creation of new investment channels would help orient part of the surpluses towards production, instead of rendering them into a pressuring purchasing power without having commodities and services in paralled with it. And that would also help, to a certain extent, lessen the consumer tendency, especially towards unnecessary things, and increase tendencies toward production.

The minister added that the projects intended to be transformed to stock companies were selected and successful ones so that there would not be a transferring of unsuccessful projects into stock companies. And the value of these companies would be estimated according to the present cost. Therefore, the value of their capitals would be very big, amounting to billions.

The planning minister confirmed that there was an essential principle the state was following, i.e., providing the opportunity for the private sector to enter with a large-scale manner into the economic activity. It is, the minister adds, a kind [of] cooperation and coordination to achieve better results in the development field, especially concerning these enterprises, going to be transformed to stock companies, as they would moreover be presented with new expertise and ideas.

Arab League Informed of Allied Use of Facilities

Sorties Mounted 24-26 Sep

JN0110195293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers are continuing to provide base facilities for U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraq's airspace to the serious detriment of the country's sovereignty and national unity.

A letter delivered yesterday by Iraq's permanent delegate to Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid points out that on 24, 25, and 26 September these aircraft mounted 268 sorties, having taken off from Saudi and Kuwaiti bases.

Attached to the letter was a detailed account of the violations, which the ambassador asked to have circulated among the League member states.

27 Sep 'Violations' Protested

JN0310152293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq has again protested the provision by Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers of facilities for U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraq's airspace to the serious detriment of Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

A letter delivered yesterday by Iraq's permanent Arab League delegate to League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid points out that on 27 September 1993, U.S., British, and French aircraft violated Iraq's airspace and carried out 48 hostile sorties, after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Attached to the letter was a detailed account of the violations. Iraq's permanent delegate asked for it to be circulated among the League Arab members.

28-30 Sep 'Sorties' Protested

JN0410134593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the continued provision of facilities to the U.S., British, and French aircraft by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers. These aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace after taking off from Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti bases. This constitutes a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid yesterday, Iraq's permanent League representative said these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace 28-30 September, carrying out 141 hostile air sorties. He enclosed a list detailing these violations, and requested that it be distributed among the member states to acquaint them with these regrettable facts.

United Nations Informed of Airspace 'Violations'

U-2 Flights Protested

JN0110131993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 1 Oct (INA)—Iraq has condemned the American U-2 spy plane's violation of its airspace under the guise of carrying out aerial surveillance for the UN Special Commission.

The U-2, according to a letter from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to the UN secretary general, took off from Saudi territory to overfly a swath of territory in central, western, northern, and southern Iraq.

Breaches on 16, 22, 24, and 26 September bring the total of these infringements to 171. The letter noted that the plane is being employed for purposes other than those specified by the UN Security Council and that the flights compromise Iraq's sovereignty and security.

19-26 Sep Airspace 'Violations' Noted

JN0210133193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1004 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 2 Oct (INA)—Iraq has again protested U.S. aircraft violations of its airspace, including reconnaissance, provocation, and the dropping of flares.

This came in an Iraqi protest memorandum addressed to the Security Council yesterday. Iraq pointed out that these aircraft carried out 356 air sorties over wide areas in northern and southern Iraq 19-26 September.

A U.S. F-16 aircraft dropped 10 flares on the al-Salamiyah area north-east of Mosul on 19 September. A U.S. TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft violated Iraq's airspace on 21 September. It flew over the areas of al-Basrah, al-Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, al-'Amarah, al-Jabsh, after which it flew toward Saudi Arabian airspace.

Rabin, 'Arafat To Meet in Cairo 6 Oct

TA0510090693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has just confirmed that Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat will meet in Cairo tomorrow. A report from Tunis issued a few minutes ago noted that the meeting between the two men will be held at the request of the Israeli Government.

Officials 'Upset' Over 'Cutback' in U.S. Funds

TA0510055693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Israeli circles in Washington are very upset over the U.S. Administration's decision to cut more than $400 million, equivalent to the sum invested in the settlements last year, from the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption. The circles noted that the cutback comes at a time when Israel is taking risks with regard to the peace process. Staffers at the Israeli Embassy in Washington told our correspondent Elimelekh Ram that half the sum invested in the settlements pertained to commitments made by the Likud government that the current government had to fulfill.

Ramon: Israel Being 'Punished'

TA0510083693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Hayim Ramon by Ya'el Dan and Ya'aqov Eylon—live]

[Text] [Dan] Is it not a little bit odd that your government is being punished for investments in the settlements?

[Ramon] It is part of the inheritance we received from the Likud government. One must bear in mind that we are talking about the U.S. fiscal year that runs from September 1992 to September 1993. During that period, the current Israeli Government—as any legal government would do—honored the agreements and commitments of the previous government; we honored the Likud government's obligations in some settlements. A large part of the sum slated to be cut from the loan guarantees was invested in the settlements to fulfill those obligations.

[Eylon] I believe those obligations only amount to half the sum being cut.

[Ramon] That is correct, but there are other sums that the Americans consider investments in settlements, while we regard them differently.

[Eylon] Could you give us an example?

[Ramon] For example, investments in infrastructure in Judaea and Samaria, which we considered part of the security infrastructure, and investments stemming from our rule over the area. However, we have changed the order of priorities in principle. Our commitment to that effect was not given to the Americans but to the Israeli people and to the State of Israel. We promised to invest the bulk of our resources in the State of Israel rather than in the settlements, as was the case during Shamir's tenure. Therefore, I very much hope the Americans and the President will understand that this large sum was a consequence of past obligations and will reassess their decision, particularly in view of the signing of the agreement of principles with the Palestinians and the significant change in the entire atmosphere in the region.

[Dan] Yitzhaq Shamir does not take a very serious view of the $500-million cut in the loan guarantees. Do you share his view?

[Ramon] The Likud's economic perception must probably be affected by the subject rather than by economic considerations. They kicked up a fuss earlier this week about the fact that we are going to extend $5 million in aid a year to the Palestinians and told us about the great damage this will do to Israeli society and the Israeli economy. Remember, we are talking about $5 million. Now that we are talking about a sum which, even if one takes the interest into account, amounts to more than $5 million a year, they take it rather frivolously. I definitely do not take a frivolous view of a move that carries budgetary implications: Our budget will be millions of dollars shorter, and Israel's ability to raise funds and its standing in the international financial market will be affected. Therefore, in this respect, this decision is definitely unfavorable. To repeat, this is yet another of the foul leftovers of the Likud's settlement policies.

[Eylon] Sir, you talked about President Clinton reassessing the decision. You know that the purpose of these loan guarantees was to absorb immigrants and that the growing trend in the United States, both of the current administration and of the public at large, is to take a closer look at where U.S. money is going. The Bush administration may have started the process with regard to the settlements when it demanded a detailed report, and the Clinton administration may follow suit by asking: Where exactly is the money going? Is it really going to absorb immigrants, or is the sum excessive? Are you apprehensive about such a turn of events?

[Ramon] When they give us money for a specific purpose, the Americans definitely have the right to check whether it is really being used for that purpose. I believe this is also required by U.S. law, and we have no problem with that. It is nothing new. All the money we receive as part of the guarantees is being used to create jobs and absorb immigration in the broad sense of the term, and we have no problem with that. We are prepared to give a detailed report to those who give us the money to show what we are doing with it. We have no intention of cheating the Americans or leading them by the nose, as certain U.S. circles claimed the Israeli Government under the Likud did. We treat the Americans seriously, and we fulfill all our obligations. It would be odd if we were to ask for money to absorb immigrants and then spend it for other purposes.

[Dan] We gather from your remarks that the Israeli Government does not consider President Clinton's decision the final word and intends to fight this cutback in the guarantees.

[Ramon] I am convinced that high-level contacts will yet be held between the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration and President, and that the issue will be examined in accordance with the agreement between the prime minister and the President. The President is entitled—he is not obliged—to deduct this sum from the guarantees. This being the case, we hope that he will reconsider the decision and that if we are punished, we will be punished by a lower sum.

[Dan] Sir, thank you very much.

[Ramon] Thank you.

Correction to Beilin Interview on Foreign Policy Issues

WA1004204593 txt
The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Beilin Interviewed on Foreign Policy Issues," published in the 1 October Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, pp 18-21:

Page 18, column two, paragraph five, sentence three, make read: ...(Labor) abstained in the 17 May 1983 Knesset vote. We did so... (correcting date)

Page 20, column two, first partial paragraph, sentence three, make read: ...FOREIGN AFFAIRS in 1988, which is very... (correcting date)

Rabin Addresses Funeral of Druze Spiritual Leader

TA0410135493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Shaykh Amin Tarif, the leader of the Druze community, was buried today at his home village of Julis. Speaking at the funeral, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the State of Israel and all of its citizens were today bidding farewell to a man who had fought for peace all his life. Rabin called on the Lebanese Druze who attended the funeral to act as messengers of peace upon their return to their country.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that approximately 1,000 Druze from Syria, who were scheduled to attend the funeral, did not arrive, although Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday announced he would permit them to come. The reason why the Syrian delegation did not cross the border to Israel at the last minute remains unclear.

At the ceremony, the late shaykh's grandson, Muwaffaq Tarif, was declared heir to the leadership. Many Druze notables are opposed to this, and Knesset Member As'ad As'ad said that the declaration may lead to intercommunal feuding.

Rabin Says Security May Improve Under Autonomy

TA0410204593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says today's terrorist attack represents a new modus operandi for radical Islam. The deed obligates us to pursue a relentless war on the agreement's opponents who must not be allowed to foil peace.

Mr. Rabin believes that after autonomy is established, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will find it difficult to carry out terrorist attacks. In the prime minister's opinion, if we have a genuine partner in the interim arrangement, the state of security may prove to be better than it is now. The Palestinians will conduct their own lives, while we will see to the security of Israelis in the Jewish settlements.

Asked whether the pursuit of fugitives has been especially stepped up recently, the prime minister said it is a lengthy process.

Mr. Rabin made these remarks in the course of a visit to the Malkhey Yisra'el Square parking complex. They were reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Says Bet El Attack Harms Peace

TA0410175493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, this afternoon reacted to the terrorist attack perpetrated today in Bet El. Our correspondent Meron Tzur was there:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] This is another attack by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], by those radical Islamic Palestinian elements who have been doing and will do everything they can to harm Israelis and the chance to attain peace. It is well known that their main struggle, their political spearhead today, focuses on foiling the agreement with the Palestinians and on interfering with the agreement's chances.

[Tzur] Mr. Rabin, will the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] continue hunting fugitives even without coordination with the PLO?

[Rabin] To avert, to curb these activities, we must continue acting against those who perpetrate terrorist deeds, and our targets are those I have just specified: Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and also the rejectionist front, if they carry out operations. [end recording]

Baraq: IDF To Continue Pressure on Extremists

TA0410125193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said that today's terrorist attack was an attempt by extremists, apparently from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization or the Islamic Jihad, to foil the chances for any political arrangement. Baraq said that additional such attempts are to be expected in the future and called on the public to remain alert. Hamas, the chief of staff said, was dealt some serious blows over the past few days, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will do its best to keep up the pressure.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the chief of staff was speaking at a reception for immigrants.

Hamas Claims Responsibility for Bet El Bombing

TA0410113493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Thirty people were injured this morning in a suicide car bomb attack on an Egged bus outside the Army's Judaea and Samaria headquarters at Bet El, north of Jerusalem. None of the victims was seriously injured. The Army has identified the terrorist as a member of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] who was on the wanted list. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Being Katzenell recording] [passage omitted] The Army says the terrorist was apparently Kamal Bani 'Awdah of the Tammun village, a member of the Islamic fundamentalist organization Hamas, which is opposed to the agreement between Israel and the PLO. 'Awdah was on the wanted list, and his family was summoned to identify the body.

A short while ago, an anonymous caller phoned one of the news agencies in Jerusalem and said he represented Hamas and it was responsible for the attack. He said the suicide attacker belonged to the military wing of Hamas, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam.

The Army closed off the area of the explosion and launched an investigation, and a number of arrests have been made. [end recording]

Rafah Fatah Hawks Commander Captured in Rafah

TA0410204293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] A bus driver suffered an eye injury in a stoning incident north of Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that bus No. 25 was driving from Neve Ya'aqov to French Hill when a stone shattered its front windshield. The driver's eyes were injured by glass shards, and he was evacuated by a Magen David ambulance to the Sha'arey Tzedeq Hospital, where his injuries were diagnosed as light.

The commander of the Rafah chapter of the Fatah Hawks, Yusuf al-Urjani, was captured at midday today in the course of routine Border Police activity in the city. Al-Urjani, 24, is suspected of having perpetrated terrorist attacks against the security forces and Arab residents. One week ago, he shot and wounded three Rafah residents. At midday today, a Border Police force spotted him in the company of an armed terrorist, and as al-Urjani began to escape the pursuing troops, he was shot and wounded in the leg. This was reported by our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Nisim Qeynan.

Sharon Addresses Settler Rally in West Bank

TA0410163193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] A march organized by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza ended a short while ago near the old Jericho synagogue. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that thousands participated in the march.

Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon said at the closing ceremony that even if the government orders the settlements evacuated, they will not evacuate. He said Jews will not wage a war against Jews, but the government policy will cause a war between Jews and Arabs, because Jews will have to maintain security on roads leading to their settlements, Jews will defend themselves, and they will not allow the autonomy police to stop and inspect cars transporting children. In his opinion, hundreds of thousands of people will help the settlers in the territories to defend themselves.

SHAS States Condition for Return to Coalition

TA0410201993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The return of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] to the coalition is contingent on a promise from the prime minister that if the PLO violates the agreement of principles, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will regain control of Gaza and Jericho. This statement was made today by Knesset Member [MK] Arye Der'i at an assembly organized by his party in Jerusalem.

SHAS has decided to set up a team to negotiate the party's return to the coalition which is expected to begin next week. Our correspondent adds that if Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef decides that SHAS is to return to the government, MK Rabbi Moshe Maya will replace Arye Der'i as cabinet minister. [passage omitted]

Defense Elements Answer Allegations Against Arrow

TA0110123093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Oct 93 p A7

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] The Arrow antimissile missile will be far more efficient intercepting surface-to-surface missiles with chemical warheads than originally anticipated. Defense elements have said that this is the conclusion reached as a result of computer simulation and ground tests conducted in preparation for the upcoming launch of the Arrow. The launch, which is scheduled for this month, will test the Arrow's capability to intercept a target missile whose warhead resembles a chemical warhead.

The simulation tests further demonstrated that the Arrow can intercept missiles equipped with cluster chemical warheads that spread the poisonous substance from dozens of small containers. The defense elements sharply criticized Dr. Re'uven Pedatzur's research, "The Arrow System and Active Antiballistic Missiles Defense," which

was published by the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. They asserted that it was a tendentious paper designed to find fault with the Arrow project and that its allegations are unfounded.

The defense elements rebuffed Pedatzur's claim that the Homa [Wall] defense system, which is based on the Arrow missiles, was designed to intercept barrages of hundreds of missiles launched at Israel. They said the Arrow missiles will be merely one tier in the national antiballistic defense system. Operationally, the Arrow will be required to stop much smaller barrages of several dozens of surface-to-surface missiles.

According to the defense elements, Pedatzur's calculation of the Arrow system's cost—$6.35 billion—was inflated and much higher than the real cost. The estimated cost presented by the defense establishment to government elements and the U.S. Administration amounts to approximately $2 billion up to the system's operational deployment at the beginning of next decade. [passage omitted]

The defense elements rejected as frivolous the concept of the splitting warhead, full of mortar shells. They asserted that the installation of such a warhead would require a large investment in the upgrading of Scud missiles, which would have to be made much more sophisticated. Mortar shells are not designed for high altitude, supersonic velocity flight and will therefore burn in the atmosphere, failing to reach their destination. If they fly at a lower velocity, they will inflict only minimal damage.

South Korea To Obtain Aerospace Technology

SK0210022393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0107 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Tel Aviv, Oct. 1 (YONHAP)—South Korea will obtain Israel's world-acclaimed aerospace technology under a memorandum on cooperation in aerospace technology development signed by Korea Aerospace Research Institute Director Hong Chae-hak and Israel Aircraft Industries President Moshe Keret on Thursday [30 September].

The two research centers will join hands to design, analyze and develop technologies for high-altitude pilotless aircraft, quality testing and simulation as well as assembling engines.

Hong was accompanying Science and Technology Minister Kim Si-chung [title as received], the first South Korean Cabinet member to set foot in Jerusalem on official duty.

Earlier Thursday, Kim met with his Israeli counterpart, Shulamit Aloni, in Tel Aviv and exchanged a memorandum that pledges bilateral cooperation in developing Science and Technology in the two countries.

A Korean official noted the political importance in addition to the technology gains of the science and technology memoranda as they reflect Seoul's new policy toward the Jewish state in the wake of the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Formal agreement is expected to follow the exchanges and give a boost to Korean businesses, which are more and more snubbed by the technology-rich countries such as the United States, Japan and the members of the European Community.

The official looked forward to joint achievements between the Korea Institute of Science and Technology and Israel's major think tank, the Weizemann Research Institute, and to exchanges and cooperation among research centers and universities in the two countries.

Aloni said that it was mutually beneficial for the productivity of Korea, an advanced, industrialized nation, to meet with Israeli technology. She accepted Kim's invitation to visit Korea at an appropriate time.

King Receives UK Royal College Delegation

JN0410191593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today a delegation of the British Royal College for Defense Studies. His majesty gave a detailed briefing on Jordan's march within its historical framework and its democratic and social dimensions. He spoke about Jordan's role in efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region and about his commitment to supporting the independent Palestinian decisionmaking in line with the Rabat conference resolutions and the decision to disengage the [legal and administrative ties with the West Bank].

His majesty stressed the importance of achieving security and stability in the region based on respect for human rights and liberties and enabling people to formulate their future and achieve comprehensive development and social justice. His majesty also stressed that Jordan was eager to continue the Jordanian democratic march to be an example for others and to confront effectively economic and social challenges. His majesty referred to Jordan's role in peacekeeping operations within the UN forces in several parts of the world. His majesty then responded to questions from the members of the delegation about various regional issues.

The members of the delegation voiced their thanks to and appreciation for his majesty for allowing them to meet him and listen to his explanation and analysis of various issues and the regional and international situation. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Staff Major General Mahmud Hammad, acting chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, attended the meeting.

Finance Minister on U.S. Talks, Development

JN0410123193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Oct 93 pp 1, 25

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Jordan has been elected member of a liaison committee that comprises several other nations to supervise the spending of funds pledged by the international donor conference to develop the occupied territories, Finance Minister Sami Qammuh has announced. The funds allocated for the first year of a five-year plan total $600 million.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y upon his return to Amman from the United States, Qammuh said: The conference was attended by 43 nations. The Jordanian delegation was led by His Highness Prince Hasan. During the conference, it was agreed that the World Bank will assume responsibility for secretarial work and planning to spend the allocated funds. The nations participating in the conference have pledged a total of $2 billion over five years. The sum, however, is expected to increase to $2.4 billion, since some countries could not yet determine what their contribution would be.

Qammuh said Jordan's election as member on the liaison committee underscores Jordan's basic role in regional developments and the inclination toward regional cooperation in development projects. This will have a concrete, positive impact on Jordan's economy.

Qammuh pointed out that the conference has decided to ask a committee that comprises several prominent economy figures worldwide to visit the region soon to study and review the plans and projects that should be adopted to develop the West Bank and Gaza.

On the meetings he held at the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State Department, Qammuh said: We discussed the economic embargo, the inspection of al-'Aqabah-bound ships, and the resulting increase in Jordan's financial burdens. We also discussed trade relations and exporting Jordanian goods to the Gulf and Iraq.

Qammuh added: The same issues were discussed with U.S. State Department officials. There was full U.S. understanding of Jordan's financial burdens resulting from Jordan's compliance with Security Council Resolution 661 on the economic embargo.

He affirmed that the United States plans to study the measures and seek the Security Council's approval of these measures.

On President Clinton's statements regarding the need to reduce Jordan's foreign debt and the U.S. intention to take many steps in this regard and how this would reflect on Jordan's debt in terms of concrete figures, he said: It is common knowledge that Jordan's foreign debt burden is one of the highest in the world. It amounts to 140 percent of the gross national product.

Qammuh added: The U.S. Administration's concern to study this issue and work to reduce its negative impact, along with other nations, is a positive step that will reduce the negative effects the Gulf war has had on Jordan's economy. This will also enable Jordan to build a stable economy and face the burdens of development and debt servicing, which put pressure on the state's financial resources.

Qammuh said he hoped the U.S. Administration's approach to Jordan's foreign debt would encourage other creditors to consider the debt issue as a special case that should be tackled in light of the circumstances which Jordan has been experiencing. This, he added, will support Jordan's development plans in order to play an effective role in regional stability. The finance minister noted that the official Jordanian quarters will follow up contacts with all concerned parties in order to tackle the debts issue and ease their burden.

Qammuh noted the importance of the meetings His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan is currently holding in the United States and their positive economic results. He said: Last Saturday [2 October] , His Highness Prince Hasan and the accompanying Jordanian delegation met with the vice president of the World Bank, his assistants, and a World Bank delegation to review the projects which

Jordan seeks to finance through cooperation with the World Bank. It has also been decided to form a technical committee comprising senior economic experts to concentrate on the repercussions of the recent developments in the region on the Jordanian economy, and then, to make recommendations to support this economy.

Regarding the discussion of Jordan's problem during the meetings of the World Bank annual conference and during the talks with the World Bank and IMF officials, Qammuh said: The talks we held with the World Bank officials focused on the Jordanian reform program and this year's achievements which came within the context of the expectations—achievements which even exceeded the program prospects. The talks, he added, also dealt with the issue of financing a number of Jordanian development projects.

With regard to the talks with the IMF officials, Qammuh said: We reviewed, during these talks, the financial and monetary situation in Jordan which was within the framework of prospects for this year. He noted that the IMF affirmed the need to issue the sales tax law, which had earlier been postponed, because it is one the necessary methods to rectify the economic system in the Kingdom.

Qammuh added that it has been agreed to dispatch an economic mission to Jordan to hold consultations in order to review the tax system, that is, the income and customs tax. He said: The IMF affirmed, during the talks, the need to free the Jordanian economy from administrative restrictions and to ease measures. The IMF also affirmed the need to create an attractive investment climate in Jordan, because unemployment and poverty can only be tackled through creating new job opportunities, and these things can only be resolved through new investments.

He said it was agreed to dispatch an IMF and World Bank team to Jordan before the end of November in order to review the future economic, financial, and monetary programs.

In another development, Qammuh attended the IMF and World Bank general meeting, which is usually attended by the finance, planning, and economy ministers of the member states. Qammuh said the conferees stressed the need to concentrate on international economic cooperation as well as on liberating trade among states, creating job opportunities, and addressing unemployment. This, he said, can be achieved only by concentrating on productive and international investment.

He added: The conferees also highlighted the need to consider the needs of the developing countries that are suffering from financial burdens and debts exceeding their abilities. He said: In this regard, the volume of Jordan's debts has been discussed with these quarters. It was obvious that there was an international understanding of the developing countries' debts in general. Attention, however, focused on the need to have these states correct their economies and solve their poverty and unemployment problems.

The conferees also emphasized that the next decade should concentrate on trade and encouragement of trade among states, and not financial aid, because the developing countries should be able to tackle their problems, embark on the necessary financial and economic reform, and consequently increase production, address unemployment, and alleviate the problem of poverty.

Concluding, Qammuh expressed optimism that his talks and meetings would reflect positively on the Jordanian economy.

Qammuh, accompanied by Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz, Central Bank Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, Planning Ministry Secretary General Safwan Tuqan, and a number of Jordanian officials, represented Jordan at the recent IMF and World Bank meetings in Washington.

Prosecution Concludes in Mu'tah Plot Trial

JN0310110393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Marka—The State Security Court prosecution concluded its case Saturday [2 October] against 10 men accused of conspiring to kill his Majesty King Husayn. The final piece of evidence the prosecution submitted was documents to which the defence objected, saying they were not included in the indictment.

Some of the documents were formal communications between government departments with which prosecutor Muhannad Hijazi sought to establish that all legal procedures were followed in the arrest, detention and interrogation of the defendants.

Defence lawyers argued that they had not been provided with the documents and moved that the court should not accept them as evidence.

The court took a one-hour recess to allow the defence to look at copies of the documents before ruling to enter them as evidence.

The defence also refused to allow the defendants to testify in court and demanded "enough time' to prepare for the defence case. lawyers jumped to their feet in objection when Presiding Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin asked the first defendant to stand up to testify.

In a 10-minute bargaining with the defence, Col. Amin allowed eight days for the defence to prepare its case. The defence asked for a three-week delay, while the court insisted it could not afford more than one week.

"All we are asking is one week for every month the prosecutor had to prepare his case," defence attorney Jawad Yunis told the court. "That would be six weeks, but all we want is half of that time."

Col. Amin, however, insisted that the defence had already had time to prepare its case and said he was delaying other cases because of the assassination plot trial.

Ten defendants, two of whom are being tried in absentia, are charged with plotting to kill the King at a graduation

ceremony at Mu'tah University, a military academy south of Amman, on June 26, and to replace the regime with an Islamic caliphate state. They are also accused of attempting to change the Constitution through "illegal and violent" means and belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP).

The eight defendants in court—five of whom are students at Mu'tah University, one former student and a member of the Royal Escort Unit and two alleged members of the ILP—have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The women relatives of defendants were prevented from attending the trial for the third week and they sat quietly under a large tree outside the courthouse until the session ended. Court sources said they would not be allowed to attend the hearings because of their "outbursts" inside the courtroom in the first two weeks of the trial, which began Sept. 9.

The lawyers objected to the court decision saying the move "affected the rights of the defence in a trial that is supposed to be public."

The women later told the Jordan Times that they had kept quiet on Saturday, hoping to be allowed entry, but vowed they would not be so calm when the trial resumes on Oct. 10. Last week they carried placards and protested against their entry ban, and often engaged the policewomen in verbal clashes outside.

Al-Ra'y reporter Ahmad Khrayshan, who has been covering security cases for many years, was also banned from attending Saturday's session for unknown reasons.

Last week, Al-Ahali weekly reporter Ramadan Rawashidah was arrested but was released on bail on Thursday and his case was referred to the civil court. He, as well as his chief editor Jamil al-Nimri, face charges of "slandering" the State Security Court and publishing the minutes of the hearings which the court had ordered journalists not to publish.

Inside the courtroom, defence lawyers protested against what they described as "the continued violation of the defence rights." They said the court's insistence on special permits for attending the hearings contradicted the "constitutionality of a public hearing."

Speaking on behalf of the defence team, Mr. Yunis also maintained that the "certain apparatus continues to harrass the defendants by keeping them in solitary confinement." He added that his clients were still "suffering from fear" from the alleged torture they underwent during their detention at the General Intelligence Department (GID).

A doctor visited some of the defendants last Sunday to check for signs of torture upon the request of the defence. But lawyers complained to journalists that the court had refused to allow "neutral" doctors they had proposed from the University of Jordan, and that they have not seen the doctors' report.

Court sources said that they had "hand delivered" a request to the Ministry of Health and the Royal Medical Services as soon as the lawyers submitted official requests for the medical tests "to ensure a speedy measure."

The lawyers claimed that "in addition to a doctor who supervised the torture at the GID, a doctor in the (al-Zarqa' military) prison had supervised the treatment of the defendants by giving them daily baths in salt and water to alleviate any signs of torture they suffered before they were transferred from the GID to the prison in August."

Court sources denied the defence allegations, calling them "fantastic fabrications."

The court was adjourned until Oct. 10 when the defence will present its case.

Proposed Joint Commission With Israel Detailed

NC0410114993 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 2 Oct 93 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday visited Damascus where he was received by President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted] According to an official statement distributed after President al-Hirawi's returned to Zahlah last night, the talks dealt with the peace process and related issues and concern for the continuation and advancement of this process. The views were identical. [passage omitted]

Observers attach great importance to President al-Hirawi's sudden visit to Damascus, ahead of Prime Minister al-Hariri's arrival in the Syrian capital, especially after reports that a U.S. offer has been presented to Lebanon within the framework of the "Lebanon First" theory to speed up the talks on the Lebanese-Israeli track.

According to information available to AL-SAFIR, the offer includes the formation of a joint Lebanese-Israeli commission to discuss issues related to withdrawal and security arrangements and to develop a timetable for the withdrawal, the deployment of the Lebanese Army along the international border, the ending of resistance operations, and the integration of Antoine Lahd's militia into the Lebanese Army.

Knowledgeable sources have told AL-SAFIR that U.S. officials discussed this proposal with Prime Minister al-Hariri, who made Lebanon's approval conditional on an Israeli oral and written pledge to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425. A joint military commission would set up a timetable for implementing this resolution without affecting developments on the Syrian track.

U.S. diplomatic sources have stated that Israel would be willing to withdraw following a test period during which resistance activity would stop, the Lebanese Army and UN forces would deploy in significant numbers in the border strip, and the Lahd militia would be integrated into the Lebanese Army. [passage omitted]

Government Receives Invitation to Multilaterals

NC0410141993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Lebanon today received an invitation to participate in the multilateral talks that will convene in the PRC. Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan received the invitation from Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev, U.S. Charge d'Affairs Vincent Battle, and the PRC charge d'affairs.

In the first comment on this invitation, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul stressed that the multilateral negotiations will only lead to the recognition of Israel, the normalization of relations, and the sharing of water with that country. He emphasized that the era of Lebanese neutrality is over because it is part of the Arab region. He stated that Israel will not achieve its goals in this country no matter what pressure it exerts. He called for steadfastness, self-reliance, and a continuation of resistance until Israel withdraws from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Source on Meeting With Syria's Khaddam

PM0510073493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Khaddam Reassured and Rebuked Hizballah and Did Not Encourage the Call for a Change of Government"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, during a visit to Damascus as head of a delegation that included Political Bureau Chairman Hajj Husayn al-Khalil, al-Wafa' Resistance Bloc Leader Deputy Ibrahim al-Amin al-Sayyid, and Islamic Amal Movement Leader Husayn al-Musawi (Abu-Hisham), raised three concerns, namely the investigation of the al-Ghubayri incident in which nine people were killed and 40 injured, the position on the government and his call for its resignation, and the peace negotiations.

The Hizballah delegation led by Nasrallah met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam for two and a half hours.

On the "three concerns" and the Syrian position on them, a Hizballah leadership source told AL-HAYAH yesterday: "We discussed our views on the government and the need to change it because we are convinced that the country's crucial internal and external circumstances carry real dangers for the entire region and would have r ercussions in Lebanon."

He added: "We are convinced that those running the country should have the highest degree of wisdom, which is lacking in the leaders at the head of the state. And that is beginning to cause us some anxiety and fear for Lebanon's future, particularly in light of the attempts to drag the Army into a real confrontation with Hizballah—the latest being the confrontation in al-Ghubayri, preceded by attempts to send the Army to the south and, before that, to the [southern] suburb [of Beirut] when there was a problem between us and the Amal Movement."

The leadership source confirmed that ' e party discussed these matters with the Syrian vice president. We told him that we have noticed that some military and security commanders are more mature than various politicians whose daily practices denote shortsightedness in dealing with the most important current issues. We in Hizballah focused on the nature of the differences among cabinet members and the differences among the leaders of the state in addition to the conflict between the views of the government and most political forces. We also stressed that there should be no hasty call for Army intervention whenever something that does not have serious implications occurs, because the Army should be the last resort and should only be used to defend the country."

The leadership source added: "We raised the question of the investigations and the need to clarify all the ramifications of the al-Ghubayri incident. We expressed fear for the future because we believe that this government does not have the prerequisites for continuing in power and that the future should not be entrusted to it, and that, therefore, we would not change our position and our demand that it should be replaced." He also said: "We discussed the dimensions of the al-Ghubayri incident and we said that Hizballah did nothing wrong. We emphasized that the circumstances in Lebanon and the region require mobilization of all energies."

He said that Khaddam "valued Hizballah's self-restraint and its leadership's conscientious political attitude at the time of the incident."

AL-HAYAH has learned from political sources that, during his meeting with the Hizballah delegation, Khaddam discussed the al-Ghubayri incident and assured the delegation that the incident had no particular ramifications and that the investigations were continuing, but he blamed it for "not allowing the medical team to examine the bodies of the victims or the wounded to determine the instrumental causes, a mission that should have been facilitated to speed up the investigations which began immediately after the incident."

On Damascus' position regarding the call for a change of government, Khaddam emphasized that the circumstances of Lebanon and the region would not allow a political adventure and that cooperation among everyone would help prevent problems, and noted that the differences between cabinet members, though unecessary, had been resolved.

Khaddam did not support Hizballah's call for a change of government and he rebuked the delegation for the unusual political stands taken by the party "although we do not support what has happened." He reassured the delegation that there is room for everyone in Lebanon and that there is no need for any party to worry. He stressed that "the two countries joined the peace negotiations on the basis of a joint decision and they will not cede their national rights, and therefore there is no need for anxiety so long as Lebanon's known position is that it would not give up the resistance card before the achievement of the objectives of its role against Israel. [quotation marks as published]

Hizballah Officials Urge Continued Resistance

PM0410141893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Oct 93 p3

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah: We Will Demonstrate When Necessary and Will Seek No License for That"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah's deputy secretary general, has stated that "suppression of the opposition would only enhance it and make it stronger." He urged the authorities to learn a lesson from "Tuesday's procession, which was a challenge procession." He emphasized: "We will demonstrate any time we feel it necessary and will seek no license for that. We will never accept a Lebanon turning into a ranch for one or several individuals. We want it to be a country of liberties. No police regime will last in Lebanon." In a speech he made yesterday to a gathering of official and private schools' teachers and headmasters and teachers' leagues in Beirut and B'abda, Qasim said: "We are engaged in a conflict and struggle to prove our existence. We represent a major sector of this society where many others do not and are there in certain positions under false pretenses and through aggression." He added that "those who are for the people and from the people are the ones who possess the elements of continuity."

Meanwhile, Ma'an Bashshur, general coordinator of the "Grouping of Popular Committees and Leagues," met, at the Grouping's headquarters in al-Tariq al-Jadidah, with a Hizballah delegation including 'Ammar al-Musawi, deupty chairman of the Political Bureau, and Abu-Sa'id al-Khansa, member of the Political Bureau.

The conferees discussed all local and regional developments and "ways of meeting the challenges at all levels by reaffirming the following three constant factors: Continuation of the resistance against the Israeli occupation and confrontation of all capitulationist agreements aimed at perpetuating the Israeli occupation and undermining the nation's identity such as the Gaza-Jericho agreement; protection of the national peace process, support for internal unity, and frustration of the plan seeking to divide the society and the nation; and protection of the public freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution and the law as one of Lebanon's foundations and a real safeguard of national unity."

The conferees also discussed repatriation of the evacuees, stressing that "all the evacuees without exception should be returned to their original homes and properties, particularly as that is one of the main provisions of the al-Ta'if accord and the national accord document on which the regime is based."

Editorial on 'Secrecy' Surrounding Gaza-Jericho

PC0410132093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 2 Oct 93 p 1

[Muhammad Mashmushi's editorial: "Financing Gaza-Jericho or Destroying an Issue"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's campaign for other states to work with him in an "international coalition" to promote the Gaza-Jericho agreement does not differ from the campaign of his predecessor George Bush, who persuaded many states to form the first "international coalition" that waged war in 1990 under the slogan of liberating Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion. Clinton's real and undeclared objectives are not different from Bush's hidden objectives, which exceeded the liberation of Kuwait and became a deliberate decision to destroy Iraq.

What are the objectives of the new U.S. campaign and the new "international coalition"?

It is difficult to believe that the current U.S. Administration, which reached the White House under Zionist slogans about Jerusalem and other issues, has suddenly

turned from viewing the Palestinians as "terrorists" and "killers" to publicly defending them. The U.S. Administration has convened an international conference attended by 45 states and financial organizations to promote the Palestinian self-rule experiment in two areas separated from each other that only represent one-tenth of the territories occupied in 1967.

This is what Washington is trying to promote now. It has even increased its financial contribution from $200 million to $500 million, despite its difficult economic conditions and the needs of the United States, which were the basis of Clinton's presidential election campaign and his subsequent success. For this reason, the "other objectives" theory is gaining more credibility, not only by those who are suspicious by instinct but also by those who are suspicious by experience of the United States and its intentions toward the Arab region, its resources, and its aspirations.

Hence, some believe that the Clinton Administration is intent on destroying an Arab issue this time, namely the Palestinian issue, in the same way and with the same coalition that Bush destroyed an Arab country, Iraq. Others believe that this administration is mobilizing the states of the world, including the Arab states, to solve Israel's problems first and foremost through financing Palestinian self-rule with funds that would ultimately be channeled to the Israeli economy or through easing the burdens that Gaza and Jericho have become for the Israeli economy. A third group believes that Washington is seeking to achieve purely long-term U.S. objectives represented by transferring its financial obligations to Israel into international obligations in which all the rich states will participate.

Are these mere thoughts that express suspicions by instinct or experience in the United States and its policy toward the Arabs and their causes? Or are they hidden facts that will soon appear as those regarding the deliberate and continuing policy toward Iraq have appeared?

The experience of the near and distant past with the United States, even the experience of so-called "friends," does not encourage us to believe only the suspicions and doubts. It encourages us to expect the worst from Washington, especially in its secret policy and diplomacy. The secrecy of the Gaza-Jericho agreement is sufficient proof.

Resistance Claims 4 Oct Operation in South

NC0510075693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] The defenseless areas of the south woke up this morning to the sounds of the Zionist artillery, which poured the wrath of its fire on Iqlim al-Tuffah, Jabal al-Rayhan, the southern suburb of 'Arab Salim, the al-Wadi al-Akhdar area, and the outskirts of Tallat al-Suwayda'.

The criminal acts were accompanied by raking operations of the area with heavy-caliber machine guns.

The Islamic Resistance men yesterday carried out a heroic operation against an enemy patrol on the Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road. This led to the death or injury of all members of the patrol.

The Islamic Resistance issued the following statement on this operation:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: And to be firm and patient in pain or suffering and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the God-fearing. [Koranic verse] In the course of their continuing jihad to defeat the Zionist occupation and its traitorous aides, out of their desire to confirm their resistance option that rejects all forms of reconciliation and recognition, and as part of the series of operations to reject the agreements of treachery and shame, members of the Islamic Resistance's Martyr Shaykh 'Ali Kurayyim group at 0645 yesterday morning ambushed a Lahd militia patrol on the Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road. The mujahidin poured machine-gun and artillery fire on the members of the patrol. Violent clashes took place during which all members of the patrol fell either dead or wounded.

The Islamic Resistance promises its innocent martyrs that it will continue its jihad until it liberates our land from the filth of the enemy. Victory comes only from God.

Al-Shar' Addresses UN General Assembly 4 Oct

JN0410200493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 4 Oct (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today stressed that for the past 20 years, Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad has not relinquished its firm belief in the need to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

In a speech to the 48th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, al-Shar' said that Syria played a positive and principal role in the long and difficult negotiations with the United States to hold the peace conference in Madrid after receiving U.S. assurances guaranteeing a Palestinian participation and a comprehensive solution on all fronts in accordance with Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land for peace formula.

He added that several initiatives were proposed during the 1970's and 1980's in an attempt to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict but these were opposed by Syria because they overlooked the comprehensive solution and ignored Palestinian participation and failed to guarantee their national rights.

The foreign minister stressed that the world acknowledges that by accepting the U.S. initiative, Syria made the peace conference possible, proceeding from the firm belief that in order to be acceptable to our people, peace must be just and comprehensive and must guarantee the return of all occupied Arab territories and achieve security and peace for all in the region. He said: Any other kind of peace would not survive or be a stable, genuine peace, with which, and under which the peoples of the region can coexist.

Al-Shar' said: The kind of peace that can win broad-based popular support is an honorable peace for us and for others. It is the kind of peace in which the children and mothers of martyrs can feel that their dear ones, who fell in the battlefields, have also helped establish that peace on the basis of justice and fairness and prevented, with their blood and sacrifices, the capitulation of the nation.

Al-Shar' said that Syria, which persistently adheres to a just and comprehensive peace, has proved its seriousness and its determination to achieve it during the Washington talks and through continued coordination with Arab parties and the two sponsors of the peace conference. Syria, he added, is more eager to achieve peace than those who have departed from Arab coordination and who, through their unilateral signing, have opened the region's doors to all sorts of options—the weakest of which will probably be the peace option—unless persistent and serious efforts are exerted to achieve substantial and tangible progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Al-Shar' explained: We in Syria do not exaggerate the significance of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and do not belittle its possible consequences, especially in the Palestinian arena, because it has created acute divisions in it. Regardless of this, however, we believe that the most serious element facing the peace process is Israel's attempts to give the impression that peace was achieved in the region after the agreement was signed and that the international community, and the Arab countries in particular, should behave accordingly. He said that history's judgment of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has become the responsibility of the Palestinian people and their various institutions. No one, he said, should think that Syria will hinder the agreement. At the same time, he added, no one should expect Syria to prevent the Palestinians from criticizing the agreement, particularly since the Israeli prime minister could not prevent the Israeli opposition from criticizing it despite his repeated assurances that he did not make any concessions to the Palestinians.

The foreign minister added that Israel says it wants enough time to digest the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, in an exposed attempt to avoid any serious continuation of the peace process, which was launched by the Madrid conference, while the international community, foremost of which is the United States, believes that benefiting from the momentum generated by the agreement is necessary to continue the peace process on other tracks, particularly the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks.

In the statement they recently issued during their foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo, the Arab countries stressed that the first step should be quickly followed by other steps on all tracks guaranteeing Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied Surian Golan and the Lebanese territories.

The foreign minister also affirmed that peace cannot be built on occupied territories or usurped rights, and said that those who are now trying to deceive people into believing that the Middle East has suddenly turned into an oasis of peace and prosperity know more than others that peace, stability, and prosperity cannot coexist with occupation, arrogance, and denial of other people's rights.

Al-Shar' said that the time has come for Israel to stop deceiving the world and demonstrating itself as a victim. Is it possible that a country that produces the most sophisticated weapons, including the weapons of mass destruction, occupies the territories of the others by force, and challenges the UN resolutions—and despite all this—continues to claim that it is the victim? He emphasized that Syria, which openly states is positions to the world, will not relinquish an inch of its land and is committed to continue the peace process seriously and in accordance with what is expected from it as stipulated by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land-for-peace. Syria will continue to work with the cosponsors of the peace process to contribute to a just and real peace and so that the Middle East be an oasis of peace, stability, and progress.

On the international situation after the end of the Cold War, the foreign minister said: What we see at the international arena today is little construction and much rubble and confusion. The hotbeds of tension all over the world pose the threat of rising human sufferings such as killing, displacement, and ethnic cleansing.

He added: Through this objective description of the new international situation, we do not intend to give an impression that the situation in the past was better than the present because this is not Syria's logic or the logic of life. We believe that life strives for the best. Our real objective is a serious assessment, in which several world countries take part, to correct the march of international relations, both in the political and economic fields, so that they will be more democratic and just. We do not see a framework better than the United Nations to bolster international dialogue and cooperation. For this dialogue to produce positive results, there is a need to restructure the United Nations through introducing democratic reforms on the decisionmaking process so that the decision taken represents the majority.

Al-Shar' said: The feelings of anxiety prevailing among the majority of the world peoples is deeper than they seem to be at the surface. Probably, we the Arabs and Muslims have become more sensitive than others toward what is being plotted against our interests and the attempts to distort our history. We have the right to ask: Why does the unjust campaign against the Arabs and Muslims continue, and why is this defamation against them for the mere announcement that some individuals committed a terrorist action against Western targets at a time when no defamation is made against those responsible for terrorist actions against thousands of Arab victims in the occupied territories and south Lebanon.

The foreign minister added: The time has come for the awakening of the Western conscience and for dealing honestly with the sensitive issues that undermine the people's dignity and the sovereignty of states.

Al-Shar': Withdrawal From Golan Condition for Talks

BR0110133993 Brussels KNACK in Dutch 29 Sep-5 Oct p 145

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', by unidentified KNACK reporter; place and date not given: "Minister Faruq al-Shar': 'We Want the Entire Golan'—President al-Asad's Foreign Minister Not Optimistic About Peace Progress"; first paragraph is KNACK introduction]

[Text] After Belgian Foreign Minister Claes' meeting with President al-Asad, Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' emphasized once again that, in Syria's view, peace in the Middle East is impossible unless problems are solved as a whole. "Every unilateral step can only make things more difficult. However, if the road to an all-embracing peace is open, i.e., if Israel is willing to withdraw from all our occupied territories, we would be willing to participate in multilateral negotiations. As long as this is not the case, i.e., as long as Israel is not willing to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights, we will not participate."

[KNACK] Do you believe that a "demilitarized zone" would be possible or acceptable to Syria?

[Faruq al-Shar'] These are details which can be discussed when peace negotiations resume. It is important to know that Syria is not only willing to consider safety considerations, but even insists on them, provided that they are fair and balanced, and that they are worked out on the basis of equal criteria. The most important thing is that Israel must agree to a full withdrawal before we can start discussing these details.

[KNACK] Egypt's President Mubarak stated that a solution for the Golan is not hard to find.

[Faruq al-Shar'] That entirely depends on Israel's intentions. If we must believe Prime Minister Rabin's statements that he wants some time to digest the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, there is no reason for optimism. Indeed, as President al-Asad has already stated in Cairo, the Israeli Government is fully aware that it is negotiating along four tracks, in order to reach a global solution; if one of these four tracks turns out to be unsatisfactory to Israel, and Israel refuses to continue with the other tracks, it was not sincere from the outset, when it stated that it wanted a global peace settlement.

[KNACK] The European Community is conducting part of the multilateral talks. Has Syria discussed a possible participation in these talks with the EC?

[Faruq al-Shar'] We have always pleaded for a European role in the negotiations, whether multilateral or bilateral. However, we were not the ones who excluded the Europeans from the bilateral talks. We withdrew from the multilateral talks because we believe that these talks must be the result of bilateral talks, not the other way around. One cannot reap fruit before planting a tree. Cooperation between enemies is not possible. As long as Israel occupies territories belonging to us, any regional cooperation with Israel is inconceivable.

Commentary Urges Tightening of Arab Boycott

JN0110211093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of Return" feature by Ibrahim Basyuni]

[Text] Brother strugglers: Israel is persistently trying to rupture the walls of the Arab siege through calls for an end to the Arab boycott, contending that it has endorsed the Gaza-Jericho accord. It has enlisted the support of several world states to achieve this objective and annul the UN resolutions that condemn Israel and its aggressive and expansionist policies in the occupied Arab territories in particular, and in the region at large. The justifications some have advanced for their engagement in this drive, which is aimed at ending the Arab boycott of Israel, are flawed and illogical. Moreover, they are unwarranted by the current state of affairs. Thus far, Israel has not honored the terms of reference of the peace process. Moreover, it has not explicitly and clearly declared its commitment to complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, and on all fronts; i.e., from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, the Golan, and the occupied part of southern

Lebanon. Worse still, Israel has not declared its full commitment to international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which provide for complete Israeli withdrawal and the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights.

Two years after the start of the Washington peace talks, Israel has continued to cling to its intransigent and stubborn stands, which caused the failure of 11 rounds of bilateral talks. In light of this, one poses the following questions: Has Israel taken any tangible and practical steps on the ground that could warrant the lifting of the Arab siege and the Arab boycott? Has Israel committed itself to the resolutions of international legitimacy, and worked to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions?

It is an established and indisputable fact that Israel has not thus far taken any practical step on the ground that could warrant such demands. Hence, the Arabs, all Arabs, are required to adhere to the Arab boycott card, given that it is one of the remaining trump cards at their disposal. This is necessary to support and promote Arab rights. What is urgently needed right now is to tighten and strengthen the boycott, and to maintain at least a semblance of joint Arab action, which has proved to be effective and sound. Moreover, under no circumstances should any power be allowed to undermine this card, or to rob us of it. Additionally, efforts must be made to step up and promote the boycott to maintain Israel's isolation so as to make it return the usurped Arab rights and territories to their rightful owners in full.

Radio Warns of Israeli Efforts To Amend Resolutions

JN0110160193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord, Israel has been behaving as if it has done all it can to promote peace. It expects the Arabs and the world to foot the bills it is presenting them in return for its endorsement of this accord. With each passing day, it becomes clearer that Israel is demanding a heavy price from the Arab states and the world community in return for this endorsement. This price is not confined to ending the state of war or annulling the economic boycott. Israel wants nothing short of rewriting the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, beginning with the resolutions, documents, and statements issued by the world body, and ending with the Arabic history books used in Arab schools. Israel wants the history of this conflict to be rewritten in accordance with the Zionist-Israeli perspective on the conflict.

On the international scene, Israel is demanding a comprehensive reexamination of the history of this conflict, one that would fall in line with a UN resolution repealing a resolution that equated Zionism with racism more than a year ago. Israel wants the revocation or amendment of all the resolutions barring, condemning, or exposing its aggressive and racist conduct, as well as its brutal practices in the Arab territories it has been occupying. That is, Israel wants to brainwash the world community, and to obliterate the segments of its memory banks retaining the crimes it perpetrated over the past 40 years. This is meant to be a prelude to obliterating the memory of the Arab victims of this conflict through amending geography and history books, in keeping with the current state of affairs affecting history and geography in this part of the Arab world. In other words, Israel is currently demanding that the world community collude with it to misrepresent the history of the conflict over the past four decades. It is to be recalled that Zionism misrepresented the history of mankind to justify the existence of Israel in this part of the world.

Israel is behaving as if it can manipulate history as it wishes. It is behaving as if it can amend, change, and reconsider history, and as if it can bring about changes to match and suit its whims, calculations, and schemes. Compliance with Israeli demands to amend or repeal UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict would render the world body a tool in Israeli hands to misrepresent historical facts that are the property of mankind, which nobody should be allowed to misrepresent. As we have just said, this collective brainwashing of the world community is meant to serve as a prelude to brainwashing the victims of this conflict, and to obliterating their true history from their memory so that they can accept Israeli dictates, which stem from its misguided and deceptive historical perspective.

Are the Arabs really aware of what Israel holds in store for them through its efforts to ensure their endorsement of its endeavor to amend or repeal UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict? Are they aware that silence and the failure to firmly oppose this endeavor will be a prelude to obliterating their historical identity on these Arab lands? If the answer is affirmative, they had better address this issue in accordance with this awareness before it is too late.

Commitment to 'Comprehensive' Solution Stressed

JN0210134093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 2 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH discusses the Middle East peace process and the need for a comprehensive solution. AL-THAWRAH explains that Syria has time and again warned against the Israeli traps which are set to ensnare Arab parties. The paper says that Syria has set an example in refraining from being dragged behind partial solutions and separate deals. Syria has also rejected all temptations which might have met its individual interests because it has always proceeded from firm pan-Arab principles which do not compromise Arab rights or relinquish Arab territories under any circumstances.

AL-THAWRAH says that Syria has done everything possible to foil Israel's schemes which seek to deal with each Arab party separately. This is because only separate solutions enable Israel to gain at the expense of Arab territory and rights.

AL-THAWRAH adds that whoever is interested in peace has voiced support for Syria's vision and approved its constant calls for just, comprehensive solution. Even the U.S. position, as stated by President Bill Clinton, has praised Syria's role and credible peace policy and what it has offered to push forward the peace process. It is a fact testified to by the entire world: The peace process would not have continued without Syria and its policy.

AL-THAWRAH explains that Israel has endeavored to open a gap in the wall of Arab coordination. This has been realized through the Israeli-PLO agreement, which took place outside the framework of the peace process and behind the backs of other Arab parties, which were surprised and shocked by it. At the same time, Syria remained and will remain committed to a comprehensive solution based on the land- for-peace formula. Syria cannot permit comprehensive policies to give way to partial policies—in conflict and in peace alike. Syria views President Clinton's commitment to achieving progress on all tracks as being in line with its stand and view, as well as with the U.S. initiative, international legitimacy, and the core of peace, which does not accept distorted interpretations of international resolutions. Syria does not accept separate deals, which neither make peace not achieve security.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: Because Syria does not bargain over the land and rights, it will adhere to its positions. Those who launched the initiative should affirm their commitment to ensuring an actual progress on all tracks to achieve a just, comprehensive solution, which is in the interest of all parties.

Afghanistan

'Dozens' of Casualties in Kabul Fighting

LD0210175593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] According to the Central News Unit's correspondent in Kabul, the shelling of regions west of Kabul by Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami forces has left dozens killed or injured. In response to this shelling, which started on Thursday night and continued until last night, the forces of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and the Hezb-e Harakat-e Eslami have fired on the place in Paghman where the rocket launchers and artillery of the Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami forces are based.

Rabbani Meets National Islamic Front Leader

LD0210181893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met today in Golkhana Palace of the presidency, esteemed Sayyad Ahmad Gaylani, leader of the National [Islamic] Front.

During the meeting talks were conducted on the military-political situation, the improvement of the situation in the interest of peace, and the consolidation of the foundation of the Islamic State at national and international levels.

Ulema Protest Nonrecognition of Shiite Law

LD0210164793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Afghanistan's Council of Jihadi Ulema has condemned the decision of the committee in charge of drawing up the temporary constitution of that country in not recognizing the Ja'fari fiqh [Shiite jurisprudence] and described it as a manifest injustice.

According to the report of the central news unit from Kabul, the head of the office of the Council of Jihadi Ulema of Afghanistan said that another decision reached by the constitution committee in rejecting any kind of education by women in Afghanistan is also another inexplicable decision of that committee.

Afghanistan's Council of Jihadi Ulema is affiliated to the National Islamic Movement of that country and is comprised of more than 600 Shiite and Sunni ulema and clerics from northern and central provinces.

Bangladesh

Zia Raises Water Sharing Issue at UN

BK0210141593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia says Bangladesh Government's main objective is to build a prosperous society and economy by consolidating national independence, sovereignty and democracy, and protecting human rights. (?Addressing the) UN General Assembly in New York early Saturday [2 October], she said this calls for guaranteeing the security of small states like Bangladesh. In the new world order (?established) following the end of the Cold War, mutual respect between large and small states should be the only recognized law. In order to create a future free from war and conflict, it is imperative to ensure the sovereignty of small states.

Begum Khaleda Zia spoke of the ecological imbalance threatening the existence of mankind. In this context, the prime minister spoke of the massive expansion of synthetic fibers, which, besides polluting the environment, is threatening with extinction the jute industry of Bangladesh and other countries. Begum Khaleda Zia called for stopping the production of synthetic fibers in the interest of environment as well as the millions of people who toil in the jute sector of Bangladesh and several other countries.

The prime minister said the donor countries and agencies should pay due attention to our indigenous initiative and development program while providing assistance. Unrealistic conditions create unnecessary obstructions in the way of development and the smooth process of democracy. Maintaining that a state cannot hope to become self-reliant through external aid alone, Begum Zia called for liberalization of trade for the benefit of the developing nations. This, Begum Zia said, can be achieved through strong and realistic North-South trading based on equality.

The prime minister in her address spoke of Bangladesh's efforts to achieve economic prosperity. About Bangladeshi government's success in various fields, she said inflation is now at its lowest and after long years of recession the growth rate in agriculture and industry has marked a definite increase. In line with existing world trends, Bangladesh also subscribed to market economy and in tackling the challenge of poverty has adopted a new development model which aims at ensuring extensive participation of the people in the development process.

Referring to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], Begum Khaleda Zia as current chairperson of the SAARC said [she] is trying to intensify development cooperation among the member countries. Side by side with regional cooperation, Bangladesh has attached priority to developing and strengthening good-neighborly relations and resolving outstanding bilateral problems. However, unfortunately, she said, some issues remained unresolved with India, the most important one being the question of water sharing. Historically and under international law, Bangladesh has inherent and legal right to the water resources of the common rivers flowing through the two countries. But India has been unilaterally withdrawing the Ganges water in the upstream since the completion of the Farakka Barrage. This unilateral withdrawal of water and complete disregard of the interest of the people of Bangladesh has brought over 40 million people in the Padma basin face to face with a catastrophic disaster. Describing the Farakka Barrage as an issue of life and death for Bangladesh, Begum Zia said due to disruption of the natural flow at the barrage a process of

desertification is evident throughout the northern and western parts of Bangladesh. Khaleda Zia said something must be done urgently to end this inhuman treatment toward the people of Bangladesh. Arrangements must be made to ensure a fair sharing of water resources of the Ganges by signing a permanent agreement immediately.

Begum Khaleda Zia said disquiet, violence, aggression, racialism, ethnic and religious conflicts and socioeconomic disparities around the globe [words indistinct] today a greater confidence and conviction that a brave new world is surely within our reach. Bangladesh [words indistinct] and tolerance and happy world community where democracy, peace, development and human welfare will be equally available to all.

Iran

President's 'Key Move' in OPEC Accord Praised

LD0110200093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] The recent OPEC agreement has saved the member countries from suffering a second major oil crisis after the first crisis in 1365 [March 1986 to March 1987] when the oil prices fell sharply. This agreement has also prevented the fall of oil prices to $10 a barrel.

Returning today from the OPEC meeting in Geneva, Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made the above statement in an interview with reporters. He added: Out of 918,000 barrels which have been added to OPEC's production ceiling, 260,000 barrels has gone to Iran, and 400,000 to Kuwait, while a certain quantity has been allocated to Nigeria and Venezuela. However, with the consent of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, no new quota has been allocated to these two countries. He added: The OPEC agreement will be valid for the next six months.

In his interview with our correspondent, the oil minister referred to the role of Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular the efforts made by the President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to ensure that under the present conditions of the oil market, the OPEC meeting agreements will produce results. He said:

[Begin recording] [Aqazadeh] The prediction of all oil analysts was that should this meeting fail to reach an agreement, prices would fall to under $10 once again, and the crisis in 1986 would be repeated. Under the present conditions, of course, solving such a crisis would have been much harder than in 1986. Therefore, all the countries were intent that a very serious move should be made toward reaching an agreement. However, the key move by His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani induced real hope in a meeting that had initially started amid total pessimism. The outcome of efforts made by the Islamic Republic induced the OPEC conference to ask me to officially convey its thanks to Mr. Hashemi.

[Correspondent] For how long will the new OPEC agreement be valid?

[Aqazadeh] Previously, it was supposed to be valid and binding for 3 months. However, through various moves and efforts, fortunately we managed to extend this period to cover the entire winter. Therefore, the period is now 6 months. This was a very good move indeed, and there is hope that the basket of OPEC prices will witness an increase even to $19 or $20.

[Correspondent] In view of fluctuations in the oil prices, and given the new circumstances surrounding oil production by the Islamic Republic of Iran, could you please tell us what effect will these new developments have on the income projected in this year's budget?

[Aqazadeh] Fortunately, during the first six months [of the Persian Year; 21 March-21 September 1993] we have been able to provide about 90 percent of the country's income. With this new increase, there is hope that during the next six months the situation will be even better. For the next six months, we must strictly observe the quota which has been set for us. Therefore, I think that we will export something between 2,550,000 and 2,600,000 barrels per day, and the rest will be used to meet domestic demand.

[Correspondent] So in your opinion, will the $16.5 billion, which has been projected to be generated by oil this year, materialize?

[Aqazadeh] There is a great deal of hope that it will. [end recording]

Continuing this interview, on the issue of possibility of Iraq entering the oil markets again, the oil minister said: The oil ministers of OPEC's member countries have agreed that as soon as it is felt that the UN Security Council and Iraq are approaching an agreement about the export of Iraqi oil, they will be convening an extraordinary meeting to make decisions about the stability of the market, and to establish the procedure for Iraq re-entering the OPEC system. He added: According to predictions made, the possibility Iraq entering oil markets before the end of 1993 seems remote.

Editorial on Saudi 'Obstructionism' Within OPEC

NC0410210793 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Sep 93 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "OPEC Has Become a Tool Against Oil Producers"]

[Excerpts] The emergency session of the 12 petroleum ministers of OPEC has convened in Geneva to discuss prices and ways to prevent an unplanned drop in prices. This comes at a time when oil prices are constantly dropping in the world oil market which has been so greatly saturated with cheap oil and because of the West's obstructionism.

As an organization comprising 12 oil-producing countries, OPEC is apparently considered to be a venue where the

interests of its member-countries are safeguarded. However, the existence of some puppet regimes that take their orders from abroad has prevented this organization from being able to ensure the national rights of its members.

The truth is that almost without exception, oil is the major source of foreign exchange income for the OPEC members. Naturally under such conditions, OPEC members should strive to safeguard their national interests within the framework of ensuring the actual price of export oil and, by adopting a calculated policy, should strive to confront controversies stemming from the political, economic, and propaganda pressures from abroad. However, all facts show that rather than facing problems with the oil purchasers, OPEC is facing a "domestic problem" and that the Saudis, who act as mentors of the oil cartels, are obstructing this organization.

The issue is that the Saudis are not thinking of their national interests but have been assigned the job of harming the economy of the oil-exporting countries at any possible cost so that these countries will face problems in their economic programs and plans.

Even though this obstructionism and treachery by the Saudis is considered a "multi-purpose act," it is still very clear that the major part of the Saudis' obstinacy in OPEC stems from its rancor against the Islamic revolution and that they have actually been assigned the duty of decreasing Islamic Iran's foreign exchange income from oil so that we will face problems in our economic programs.

Needless to say, all OPEC members are in the same boat, and when this boat is rocked all its members are harmed. But experience has shown that the Islamic Republic is strong enough to thwart any efforts to harm or to paralyze its economy. [passage omitted]

However, even though the West has used all its tools against the Third World, we have still not only not resorted to the tools that we have in our hands to neutralize the West's plans in the best way possible, but have even used these tools to the benefit of the West and against our own selves. Oil could and still can be a source of strength for the oil-producing countries. But today it has been transformed into an element that is used to destabilize the economies of the oil-producing countries.

This disgraceful game should be ended. OPEC can do this on the condition that it does not use its strength against itself and prevents the obstructionism by foreign hirelings inside its organization.

Velayati Addresses UN General Assembly

LD0410205793 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] New York, Oct. 4, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Monday adressed the 48th General Assembly of the United Nations, touching on a number of global issues including nuclear disarmament, and the problems plaguing the world nations in general and the Muslim countries in particular.

He said the U.N. has an "obligation to identify and root out the causes of crisis and mistrust inherited from the cold war and take appropriate steps for the creation of the necessary conditions to promote understanding and foster mutual confidence at the international level.

"This should begin by an all-out campaign of deeds to restore world confidence in the United Nations A balanced, objective and far-sighted approach based on justice and our common principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter, to various international political, economic and cultural crises and challenges... [sentence as received]

"Should we fail in adopting such an approach, countries will be forced into security dilemma of unacceptable survival options, either strengthen their military capabilities and thus precipitate an arms race, or succumb to expanisionist powers and their whims. In either case, the world will plunge into a new era of insecurity and turbulence," he warned.

The Iranian foreign minister criticized the occasional exercise of dual policies by the Security Council for political favouritism, and the indifference of the world body to the crisis in Bosnia and other problems of the Muslim world, saying in part:

"When due to political calculations, some aggressions and international crimes meet with the indifference and acquiescence of the Security Council, when the criteria for resort to forcible measures envisaged in Chapter VII of the Charter is the short-lived political interest of the powers, when aggression and attempts at annihilation of an entire nation does not receive a forcible resolute response while in other cases resort to force is rushed into not attempting to understand and deal with the root causes of a conflict, and, finally, if some decisions of the Council are enforced with vigor and determination, while others remain deadletters for years, then no one can expect potential aggressors or possible victims of foreign expansionism to form a reliable expectation concerning the reaction of the Security Council, thus having removed the credibility of the deterrence factor."

Velayati referred to the situation in Palestine, and aggressions by the zionist regime against Lebanon as blatant examples that adduce to the ruling in the Security Council, of dual political principles, saying the situation is "a sad illustration of the prevailing preference of political interests over peace, security, international law and equity."

He said: "Relying on the support of a number of powerful states, Israel has with impunity totally disregarded pertinent Security Council resolutions, unabatedly pursued a militaristic policy, persisted in aggression and expansionism and avoided any commitment to international nuclear non-proliferation regimes. It is the only possessor of nuclear weapons in the region. It has systematically and grossly violated the most elemental human rights of the Palestinian people and employed terrorism in all its forms as an official policy.

"In our view, peace, stability and mutual confidence can only return to the Middle East, and the holy land of peace

and revelation through serious and even-handed treatment of these realities and the full restoration of inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

Iran's foreign minister portayed a gloomy outlook of the near future status of the Palestinians saying that despite the international fanfare, the recent accord between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and the zionist regime as well as any other understanding at the official level between Muslim governments and the zionist regime "do not present a realistic solution to the root causes of the conflict, do not promise restoration of Palestinian rights, and thus cannot establish justice which is the only foundation of a lasting peace.

"And, no one can cede Palestine on behalf of the Palestinian people or al-Quds al-Sharif on behalf of the Muslims. We consider the signing of this accord (Gaza-Jericho) as a conspiracy against Islam and we disagree with it," the Iranian minister made it clear.

On the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said the U.N. Security Council had shown differing attitudes and adherence to inconsistent principles when dealing with the slaughter and destruction of an entire Muslim nation in Europe.

"In the face of aggression, genocide, rape and indiscriminate murder in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Security Council, neglecting repeated calls by the General Assembly, has failed to fulfill its international responsibility, and has even deprived the victims from the means to defend themselves. The Council ... [ellipses as received] can certainly not justify this approach by hiding under the convenient excuse of the existence of civil war. This excuse is unacceptable, at least because of the fact that the very same Council, in a much more complex situation of civil strife in Somalia—where the identification of victim and culprit is far more difficult—has not only acted but practically given total management of a United Nations operation to a single country, which, motivated by its own perceived interests, has undertaken massive operations, whose main victims are ironically the same innocent and deprived people for whose help and protection the operation ostensibly started," he pointed out.

The Bosnian Muslims, said the Iranian foreign minister, have been forced into "unbalanced negotiations" with the heavily armed aggressors due to lack of serious action by the international community.

"It is imperative for this august house and also the Security Council to take appropriate measures to guarantee the viability of the government and Muslim people of Bosnia. The lifting of arms embargo against the Bosnian Government, and strengthening the defensive capabilities of Bosnian Muslims are, in our view, the most effective guarantee for the durability of any peaceful settlement and prevention of future aggressions," he reiterated.

Velayati also criticized the Western notion of the human rights and its deterioration in the Western societies as evidenced by violence, crimes, drug menace, prostitution, pornography, rape, violence and other abuses of women, the disintegration of families, profanity and vulgarity as well as commodification [as received] of social relations..."

Referring to other global issues, he said: "The conclusion of the comprehesive convention of the chemical weapons, notwithstanding its shortcomings, was a historic achievement... Iran, the most recent victim of large scale use of chemical weapons (1980-88 Iraqi imposed war), actively contributed in the drafting process, co-sponsored the relevant resolution in the General Assembly and was among the first signatories to this important international instrument."

This same applies to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, he said, adding: "Politically motivated and unfounded accusations against states signatory and committed to the non-proliferation treaty simply undermine this important instrument and lead to international mistrust and escalation of the arms race."

The Iranian foreign minister upheld the idea of making the Middle East a nuclear free zone.

"What is really necessary, globally and particularly in the Middle East, is serious and genuine international cooperation for the comprehensive, non-selective, non-discriminatory, balanced and effective reduction of conventional arms. This may be realized, inter alia, through reduction of military budgets, weapons procuremenmt and the presence of foreign forces in different regions.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has been cited by impartial international sources as the country with the lowest defense budget in the region and the least weapons purchases. As such, Iran is naturally prepared to engage constructively in any serious, practical and non-sensational collective effort in this regard," he said.

Velayati said in spite of sensitive regional conditions and the bitter experience of a recent foreign aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian Government has allocated "a mere 1.5 per cent of the national budget for defense, and has the lowest military purchases in the entire region.

"Consistent with its national and strategic interests and cognizant of its grave responsibility in this region, the Islamic Republic of Iran has historically acted as the force for stability in the Persian Gulf region.

"Domestically," he said, "the greatest part of the national budget has been allocated to economic, social and cultural development projects and reconstruction. The policy of transformation of military industries to civilian use and the employment of armed forces in the reconstruction sector has been vigorously pursued. Thus, despite serious obstacles, fundamental progress has been achieved in across-the-board development of the country and reconstruction of war-imposed damages."

Referring to aspects of the foreign policy of Iran, he said: "Externally, Iran has formualted its policy with a view to encouraging and promoting security and stability in the

region, as well as expansion of political, economic, cultural and scientific cooperation among the countries of the area.

"The position of principle adopted by Iran in the course of the Persian Gulf crisis and our constant effort to prevent the spread of violence in the region, our even-handed and consistent emphasis on internal understanding and compromise in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, our attempts to secure a peaceful settlement in the Caucasus as well as our playing host to the highest number of refugees in the world and the humanitarian assistance extended by Iran to victims of crisis in the region are all consistent with our policy of strengthening stability, preventing tension and mitigating the human suffering of the victims of crises in the region."

The Iranian foreign minister took up the human rights issue, and said that divine religions, particularly Islam "pioneered the campaign to respect and value the exalted worth of human person as the vicegerent of God on earth."

Human rights, he said, are thus not only universal and independent of geographical boundaries, but also not originated in conventions.

"Therefore, their definition, codification, implementation and international promotion and protection cannot be considered the private domain of a few, who enjoy temporary political power and military superiority. Particularly, because this group of states do not have a bright record in internal or external protection of human rights, nor have they presented in their own social experience a suitable moral or material environment for the welfare of human beings."

If violence, crimes, drugs, profanity, abuse of women and disintegration of families, said Velayati, are the least byproducts of the human rights model advocated or indeed imposed by the West, "then others certainly have the right to critically examine this prototype before importing it."

At the end of his address the Iranian foreign minister assured the 48th General Assembly that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to help attain the objectives of the United Nations in cooperation with other states.

President, Kazakh Minister Hold Talks 4 Oct

LD0410124593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Kadyr Baykenov, Kazakhstan's minister for energy and fuel resources. The meeting was attended by Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi, the mines and metals minister, who is also the head of the two countries' joint commission.

During the meeting, Mr. Baykenov conveyed warm greetings from President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and presented a report to the president on his talks with our country's officials about the expansion of ties between the two countries and completion of the agreements reached earlier. He asked for further cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan in the fields of transportation, oil, and other fields of mutual interest.

Stressing his country's strong desire to secure new agreements and to continue past cooperation, he added: The government and the nation of Kazakhstan are eagerly awaiting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Kazakhstan.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed gratitude for Mr. Nazarbayev's desire to expand cooperation and sent reciprocal greetings to him. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction with the agreements reached on bilateral cooperation, particularly economic and commercial relations, and stressed the need for continuation of the efforts to expand cooperation.

Kazakh Minister Departs Tehran

LD0410172893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Kadyr Baykenov, Kazakhstan's minister of energy and fuel resources, left Tehran for the Kazakh capital of Almaty this afternoon after taking part in the first session of the joint committee of economic and commercial cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan.

In an interview with a central news unit correspondent at Tehran airport, Baykenov described the conference's outcome as very good. He said the committee's first session dealt with agreements already reached and made decisions on increasing economic and industrial cooperation.

Mr. Mahluji, our country's minister of mines and metals, chaired the first session. He said final agreements reached and a cooperation protocol have been provisionally signed. During President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to Kazakhstan, the two presidents will sign the agreements.

Velayati Meets With Japanese Delegation 20 Sep

NC0310174793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Cordial Iran-Japan Ties May Not Overrule Basic Principles"]

[Text] The Japanese deputy foreign minister, accompanied by a Japanese delegation, met with Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday.

The recent PLO accord with the Zionist regime was discussed during the meeting, and the Japanese deputy foreign minister offered explanations regarding the stance his country had adopted on the recent developments and declared the region was passing through a critical period.

The Japanese delegation requested that the Islamic Republic of Iran accept the Middle East peace accord and forebear from opposing it.

Relations between Iran and Japan have a rich historical background, and have always been on very cordial terms, specially in the post-revolution era. In fact the Islamic

Republic of Iran has always been seeking improved and expanded relations with the countries in the Far East and the Pacific region. Of course recent international developments have had great effect on this trend in the Iranian foreign policy, and fortunately Iran's relations with the above countries have had very satisfactory results in the form of expanded economic exchanges.

At the same time it has to be pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran can not relinquish the basic principles on which its foreign policies have been based. Iran can never accept a peace accord which endorses the expulsion of the real owners of Palestine.

This adherence to certain principles is not restricted to the case of Palestinian people. The Islamic Republic of Iran will adopt the same stance in similar cases in any part of the world.

In fact, in our view the acceptance of the recent peace accord will be to the disadvantage of the entire world community, for it will encourage acts of aggression. It is nothing less than awarding the aggressor, and as such it will tend to spread a wave of violence and aggression among the governments of the world that are pursuing expansionist policies.

Moreover the acceptance of the accord concluded between the PLO and the Zionist regime will imply the disregard of all international laws and regulations, and will serve as justification for future cases of aggression by the great powers of the world against weaker nations.

The acceptance of the Middle East peace accord will also imply the violation of all UN resolutions pertaining to this case. It will eventually result in the weakening of the United Nations and the disruption of the international spirit of cooperation and will ultimately bring about international anarchy.

Meshkini: Khasbulatov 'Better Than Yeltsin'

LD0110191893 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1555 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Meshkini, speaker of the Assembly of Experts, in Qom on 1 October—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] One more thing: the deal between PLO and Israel. One of the most bitter and treacherous events of the day. You should know this. The treacherous PLO leader has sold for a very low price the blood the Palestinian people have shed for 40 years, as well as their efforts and sufferings. May God punish him soon. He sold it for the municipality of Gaza. Sir, the al- Aqsa mosque belongs to all the Muslims of the world; they will not be satisfied with this deal. The criminal America should know that tomorrow 'Arafat will have the same fate as al-Sadat. The sacred intifadah will react to these crimes and treacheries. The government and people of Iran and all Islamic people condemn this shameful act.

I would like to tell all brothers and sisters: it is necessary to hurry to the help of innocent Palestinians. Help them with your efforts and finances. This is their desperate day. They are calling on the Islamic world to help. And the prophet of Islam has said: anyone who hears the Muslim's cry but does not help is acting outside Islam. I hope that soon the Palestinian issue will be solved properly.

Now the third point. Today the struggle for power in Russia is so intense there is the danger of a nation of 140 million people falling into the clutches of war. This is a war of carnal desires, desires for power. Great is the Koran that explains man to us and makes made us understand him. The situation does not surprise us, because when people are educated to be anti-God, this is the final outcome. Our honorable president has given them valuable advice: do not light a fire that will burn the nation, but solve the problem rationally. Our president's advice was something close to this meaning. Yes. Do you know who the president is advising? The Islamic training and faith of the president demands such advice from him. And who is the advice for? For those people whose Russian weapons—in the hands of Iraq—burned tens of thousands of Iran's young and old as well as men and women during the [Iran- Iraq] war. The president is now advising these people. Yes. This is the difference between the faithful and the faithless man. The difference between Muslims and followers of 'Ali and Leninists and Marxists. The difference between man connected to divine qualities and the savage man.

Today we do not want to make a definite judgement about the Soviet Union or to say whether Yeltsin or Khasbulatov is right. But we have two reasons to think that maybe Khasbulatov is better than Yeltsin. For one thing America is supporting and helping Yeltsin. And whoever America supports must be in the wrong. You understand America. It speaks only in the defense of its own interests. America is supporting Yeltsin but the Russian court condemns Yeltsin. As in all countries, if you want to see the best sector at work you have to look at their judiciary, be they Islamic or non- Islamic. The best sector in any country from which one could judge their justice is the judiciary. And this is what their court has said. [passage omitted]

President Opens Tehran International Trade Fair

LD0210172193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 2 October—recorded]

[Text] As you were informed in the news bulletin, the 19th Tehran International Trade Fair was inaugurated this morning with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. After visiting various sections of the exhibition, the president took part in an interview with our correspondent, to which we draw your attention:

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Mr. President, today you opened the 19th Tehran International Trade Fair and visited various sections of it. Please tell us what is special

about this exhibition, comparing it to those of past years, and basically how these can help the Islamic Republic of Iran's economic goals.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My judgment cannot be a comprehensive one based only on what I have seen today. However, if we compare the economic situation of today with that of four years ago when the first plan began, we see an outstanding difference. It seems to be like a healthy youth that is growing up fast, both in terms of the variety and quality of industries, as well as the spirit of the industrialists.

Most of the people in the sections I visited were saying that they have even begun to export, and they are witnessing growth in their exports. Our domestic industrial products are even exported to industrial countries such as Germany, Italy, and Great Britain. This is good news to me. On the whole, we should be satisfied with our industrial growth during the past four years. Of course, we gave priority to industries in our policies.

I saw today that most of the people in this exhibition were very satisfied with the introduction of the single exchange rate, and they saw it as a contributing factor toward growth in the quantity and quality of the industry. They had a positive assessment of it. That policy opens the door to exports, and they were concentrating on that. Many of them were arguing that this is the path to self-sufficiency.

I noticed one or two clear points among the requests, which were not new to me. One was the issue of cash flow [naqdinegi], and the other was tariffs [ta'refe ha]—both of which are right.

About the cash flow issue: Naturally, when we introduced the floating exchange rate some were benefiting from a cheaper rate and now need more cash in rials. Therefore, we should help them. Of course, so far we have helped them, and it seems that we should help them a little bit more. Particularly, we should provide more baking facilities to producers. Fortunately, the government has approved that issue, and we are currently setting the figures.

The issue of tariffs was also nothing new to us, and it was obvious that we should increase our tariffs on imports under the new conditions. The government is quite ready for that, and a bill has been sent to the Majles. We await Majles approval permitting the government to set custom duties. I think the Majles is going to make a decision on that in the near future.

Those were two requests made by our industrialists, and they wanted nothing else from us. Both of them are near completion, and industrialists will be informed of the decisions soon.

I envisage that with the introduction of the new policies our exhibitions will become a great deal richer than what they are now during the next two or three years,.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Official Seeks 'Logical Balance' for 1373 Budget

LD0310153493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The head of the Plan and Budget Organization has announced the details of the budget for the [coming Iranian] year 1373 [starts March 1994], and the latest decision by the Economic Council on the guaranteed purchase price of several basic agricultural products.

In an interview today with reporters, Ruqani Zanjani pointed out that the 1373 budget has been drafted on the basis of the strategies of the second development plan.

He said: One of the ambiguities of the 1372 budget was the price of foreign currency but this ambiguity has been totally removed and for this reason the forecast for next year's budget—on income as well as expenditure—is fully realistic and implementable.

He added: Despite the fact that the single rate of foreign currency has been put into effect, some items such as medicine, defense items, and basic commodities continue to be calculated with the 70 rial foreign currency. [sentence as heard] In the 1373 budget the [price] of these items will be calculated on the basis of the price for unregulated foreign currency. [But] Mr. Zanjani added: The change in the [method] of calculation will not mean an increase in the price of these commodities. Rather, the hidden subsidy will be now openly paid to the related organizations.

Mr. Zanjani also said: One of the main aims in drawing up the 1373 budget will be to establish a logical balance between the government's income and expenditure. And government borrowing from the central bank will remain at zero.

He added: THe basis for the 1373 budget income in the oil sector is based on the understanding reached in OPEC, while the share of income from taxes will increase from 5.4 trillion rials to 6.4 trillion rials.

Our correspondent now reports on other details of the 1373 budget and the latest decisions of the Economic Council.

[Unidentified correspondent] In the interview Mr. Zanjani pointed out several important issues as the characteristics of the 1373 budget: The continuity of privatization, the regulation of trade tariffs to provide rational support for producers, the provision of help—through partial payment of some bank charges—for private sector investments, particularly in the fields of education, tourism, health, medicine, physical education, cheap housing construction, farming, husbandry, mining, and industry.

The head of the Plan and Budget Organization also pointed to the important and key role that the agricultural sector has in the national economy, and said: The gradual increase in the guaranteed purchase price of important agricultural products, including barley, wheat, corn, cotton, and sugar beet in the past few years has caused a

significant increase in the production of these products and for this reason this policy will continue in the coming year.

According to a decision by the Economic Council, the increase in the guaranteed purchase prices per kilo in 1373 will be: for wheat, 225-260 rials; barley, 172.5-210 rials; corn, 195-235; sugar beet, 5,200-6,200 a tonne; and cotton, 514-6,500 [no unit specified], he said.

* Arak Refinery's 2d Phase To Become Operational

93LA0239G Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] **More than 100 billion rials, of which $1.1 billion was in foreign currency expenditures, was spent on the construction of the seventh Arak Refinery, which took 38 months.**

The seventh Arak Refinery in its first phase is able to refine 150,000 barrels of crude oil per day. With the start of the second phase, this amount will increase to 300,000 barrels.

The petroleum products of the refinery include liquid gas, regular gasoline, super gasoline, kerosene, jet fuel, Arak petrochemical feeding, diesel fuel, heating oil, tar, and sulphur, and the units of which the refinery is comprised, include water, electricity, and steam production units; atmospheric and vacuum distillation; thinner; liquid gas; caustic soda; unleaded gasoline production; liquid and gas nitrogen production; hydrogen production; izomax; sulphur; amino acids; tar production; and a polluted water collection unit.

The contract to build this refinery was implemented in 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990], and the contract period was 38 months. The operation preparations began in late 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993], and in early 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] the Fire Department units, the drinking water network, the steam production network, the compressed air production network, the precision instruments, and the electricity generator were put into operation.

The contract signed with the foreign contractors emphasizes the transfer of technology. Also, a number of employees were sent abroad for training and took part in short- and long-term courses, and a number of them were trained in the country.

Crude oil is pumped through the pipeline from Ahvaz by a pump station, which is along the route to the crude oil reservoirs of the refinery, and in this way the refinery is fed.

At the present time, this refinery is operated by 1,000 employees, 70 percent of whom have recently been hired and 30 percent of whom are experienced employees from other refineries. This refinery, which is the first refinery built after the victory of the Islamic revolution, was built 2 km from the Arak-Borujerd Road, next to Arak Petrochemical Factory.

Considering the international prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the Persian Gulf, this year the difference between the value of the products of this refinery, with the sale of the crude oil that is fed into it, is about $1,215,000 per day, which is $443 million annually.

The added value of the products of this refinery, after deducting the current expenditures, investments, and attrition, amount to $709,000 per day and $247 million annually.

* Robbers Take Off With $38,000 in Foreign Currency

93LA0240B Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Sep 93 p 2

[Text] Tehran—IRNA. In an unprecedented scheme, yesterday morning (Wednesday) swindlers pretending to be rounding up counterfeit dollars stole more than $38,000 from several money changers in Tehran.

A swindler hired 18 workers from Aryashahr Square, and posing as inspectors from the Ministry of the Interior, they went to several money changers on Tehran's Ferdowsi Street demanding to inspect their dollars to obtain the counterfeit dollars.

In an interview with IRNA's correspondent, General 'Abdollah 'Oqba'i, commander of the Greater Tehran Police Precinct, said: This thief, who used a minibus to carry out his plan, made what he was doing seem routine and told the workers he hired that the inspection was being done so that our compatriots would not face problems abroad because of the purchase of counterfeit dollars.

He noted: The significant thing in this theft is that this thief was not armed in any way and despite this not even the owners of the money-changing shops made the slightest effort to see the orders for his mission. They easily submitted to the demands of this impostor.

He added: According to the orders of the robbed shops, Central Bank inspectors periodically inspected the money-changers using this procedure in order to monitor them, and the thief's activity seemed routine.

According to him, the robber fled with the dollars but the 18 people who worked with him were arrested and an extensive investigation is under way to arrest this thief and on related issues.

It was said that the thief was active on Tehran's Ferdowsi street for an hour and a half.

General 'Oqba'i expressed regret that the robbed merchants paid no attention to police warnings and made no resistance to this thief.

Montazeri 'Satisfactory' After Kidney Operation

NC0310154893 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct 3 (AFP)—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, once the heir to Khomeyni as Iran's spiritual guide, has undergone a kidney operation and is recovering in hospital, his son said Sunday.

The 71-year-old ayatollah entered a Tehran hospital last Tuesday and had the operation two days later, Ahmad Montazeri said.

"The operation was difficult but it was successful," he said, adding that the cleric's condition was satisfactory.

Montazeri was also hospitalized in August after suffering from heart and kidney trouble.

He stepped down as successor-designate to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in March 1989 after coming under criticism from the late founder of the Islamic republic for attacking the country's policies.

Montazeri has since lived under police surveillance in the holy city of Qom of central Iran, where he heads a Shiite Muslim religious school.

Pakistan

Party Reaffirms Decision To Boycott Elections

BK0410163493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf Group [MQM] has announced that it will continue to boycott the general elections in the country. Making this announcement in Karachi this evening, the group said the boycott decision is not an escape from the elections, but a democratic protest against what it called the non-redress of grievances despite repeated appeals.

Military Spokesman Rejects Rationale

BK0510065193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] A military spokesman in Rawalpindi strongly rejected the impression created by MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf group that due to the incitement by the law enforcement agencies, the group has been harassed and is being prevented from carrying out electioneering in a free and peaceful atmosphere. The spokesman said the law enforcement agencies are demonstrating total impartiality and the MQM was also assured of total impartiality at a high-level meeting in Rawalpindi on 28 September. The MQM delegation that participated at the meeting appeared to have been satisfied with the assurances and had said that its group would fully participate in the elections. He said now the MQM has referred to some incidents that emerged after 28 September, due to which, as it says, the party is constrained to withdraw from the elections. The incidents relate to the assassination of two of its party workers and the advice given to the party not to open its election offices at certain areas in Karachi. The military spokesman said the incident of assassinations is being investigated, and it would be premature to say that they were political murders. As far as the matter of opening of election offices in certain areas in Karachi is concerned, the MQM was asked to give advance information about their program so that security arrangements could be made. However, despite the understanding, this was not done. The allegation of confining the MQM Altaf group to only certain seats is totally wrong and baselss. The party can perfectly well compete for all the seats in the elections. The spokesman said the plea under which the MQM has announced the boycott of elections is extremely flimsy and meaningless. They themselves know pretty well about the real cause for boycotting the elections. He expressed the hope that the MQM Altaf group will revise its decision and participate in the elections in the greater interest of the nation.

Authorities Seize Political Party TV Station

BK0310103093 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 Oct 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—The local administration in the early hours Sunday seized the private television transmitter of Pakistan Islami Front (PIF).

The local authorities took the action of seizing the PNN (Pakistan News Network) of PIF on the complaint of the Pakistan Television Corporation. Four people in the private TV van were also taken into custody.

An Assistant Commissioner and a hundred police jawans [soldiers] entered Liaquat Bagh and seized the whole system, forcibly taking it away from emotional PIF workers.

Local authorities say the action was taken in light of a PTV complaint that "the transmission of PNN is a violation of Telegraph and Wireless Act, 1933."

The PIF Saturday staged a public rally at Liaquat Bagh, which was relayed live for local viewers on STN [expansion unknown] frequency. The private transmission continued for several hours in which Qazi Hussain Ahmed, PIF chief, and other leaders were shown delivering speeches in the rally.

As the police seized the private TV system and arrested the PIF communication wizards, emotional workers protested the action. They told NEWS that they have "not violated law as PNN is duly permitted to transmit its programme".

They threatened to launch a protest Sunday against what they called the extreme action of local authorities.

At the time of filing this report the PIF workers and some of their leaders were having a "shouting match" with local authorities insisting that "we have done nothing wrong".

According to one PIF wizard, the police seized the speakers and other equipment, as they do not know much about the whole technology used for live transmission of the PIF rally.

The PIF, however, successfully transmitted its programme in major cities last week, much to the surprise of communication wizards of PTV and STN. The seizure seems to have come rather late.

Police officials say a case has been registered against PIF leaders for violating the communication law.